United Nations S/PV.6413

Security Council

Sixty-fifth year

Provisional

6413th meeting

Thursday, 28 October 2010, 10 a.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Rugunda	(Uganda)
Members:	Austria	Mr. Mayr-Harting
	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Ms. Čolaković
	Brazil	Mrs. Viotti
	China	Mr. Yang Tao
	France	Mr. Araud
	Gabon	Mr. Onanga Ndiaye
	Japan	Ms. Kodama
	Lebanon	Mr. Salam
	Mexico	Mr. Heller
	Nigeria	Mrs. Ogwu
	Russian Federation	Mr. Churkin
	Turkey	Mr. Apakan
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Parham
	United States of America	Ms. Anderson

Agenda

Consideration of the draft report of the Security Council to the General Assembly

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-506.

10-60643 (E)

Please recycle

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Consideration of the draft report of the Security Council to the General Assembly

The President: The Security Council will now proceed to the consideration of its annual report to the General Assembly, for the period from 1 August 2009 to 31 July 2010.

Members of the Council have before them the draft report. The introduction to the draft report was prepared by the delegation of Nigeria, as President of the Council in July 2010, with the participation of the other members of the Council. The body of the report was prepared by the Secretariat. I should like to express appreciation to Nigeria and the Secretariat for their respective contributions.

I should like to point out that the draft report was prepared in accordance with the note by the President of 26 July 2010 (S/2010/507).

I now give the floor to Her Excellency Mrs. Joy Ogwu, the representative of Nigeria, in her capacity as head of the delegation responsible for drafting the introduction to this year's annual report.

Mrs. Ogwu (Nigeria): My first words must be to thank you, Sir, and to express my appreciation for your introduction of the draft annual report.

I want to state that members of the Council had the opportunity to review and reach agreement on the draft report prior to this meeting. We look forward to its adoption by the Council.

As President of the Security Council for the month of July 2010, Nigeria was responsible for the preparation of the introduction of the annual report of the Council to the General Assembly. During the drafting process, we relied principally on the monthly assessments and the views expressed by all Council members. To ensure that it was accurate and adequately reflected the Council's work, activities and outcomes, it was revised several times following comments and, sometimes, language provided by Council members.

The report covers all the meetings of the Council in their various formats, the field missions undertaken by the Council during the period, and the thematic discussions covering a wide range of issues.

Following the precedent set by Viet Nam in 2008 and Uganda in 2009, an informal meeting with Member States to exchange views on the annual report took place on 21 October. As expected, Uganda, in its capacity as President of the Council in July 2009, and the United Kingdom, in its capacity as incoming President of the Council in November 2010, when the report is expected to go to the General Assembly, co-chaired the meeting. It was a very successful meeting, I must say. Not only was it useful for fostering closer working relationships between the Council and non-Council members, but it also served to demonstrate the Council's openness and responsiveness on the question of its working methods. I must say that it was a very hospitable audience. Indeed, the meeting enhanced the transparency of the Council in the eyes of non-Council members, and we hope that this laudable trend will be sustained in the future.

Finally, I would like to express my delegation's appreciation and gratitude to all Council members, as well as former members, for their contribution, input and cooperation. Last but not least, we thank and commend the Secretariat for its invaluable support and assistance, without which we would not have had the report in its present form.

The President: There are no further speakers on my list. It is my understanding that the Council is ready to proceed to the adoption of its annual report.

May I take it that the draft report is adopted by the Council?

There being no objection, it is so decided.

This decision will be reflected in a note by the President of the Security Council, to be issued as document S/2010/552.

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 10.15 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.6414

Security Council

Sixty-fifth year

Provisional

6414th meeting

Friday, 29 October 2010, 3 p.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Rugunda	(Uganda)
Members:	Austria	Mr. Lutterotti
	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Mr. Barbalić
	Brazil	Mr. Maia
	China	Mr. Sun Xiaobo
	France	Mr. Bonne
	Gabon	Mr. Onanga Ndiaye
	Japan	Mr. Kodama
	Lebanon	Ms. Tawk
	Mexico	Mr. Heller
	Nigeria	Mrs. Ogwu
	Russian Federation	Mr. Pankin
	Turkey	Mr. Apakan
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Quarrey
	United States of America	Mr. Grant

Agenda

Post-conflict peacebuilding

Progress report of the Secretary-General on peacebuilding in the immediate aftermath of conflict (S/2010/386)

Report of the Secretary-General on women's participation in peacebuilding (S/2010/466)

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10-61020 (E)

Please recycle

The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Post-conflict peacebuilding

Progress report of the Secretary-General on peacebuilding in the immediate aftermath of conflict (S/2010/386)

Report of the Secretary-General on women's participation in peacebuilding (S/2010/466)

The President: In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, I shall take it that the Security Council agrees to extend an invitation under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure to Mr. Ejeviome Otobo, Director and Deputy Head of the Peacebuilding Support Office.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

I invite Mr. Otobo to take a seat at the Council table.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2010/557, which contains the text of a draft resolution prepared in the course of the Council's prior consultations.

On behalf of Council members, I would like to thank the co-facilitators — Ambassador Heller of Mexico, Ambassador Anderson of Ireland and Ambassador Sangqu of South Africa — who successfully accomplished the task assigned to them of reviewing the arrangements set out in resolution 1645 (2005), which established the Peacebuilding Commission.

The co-facilitators' report on the review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture is the product of extensive consultations with Member States and a wide range of stakeholders. The draft resolution before us seeks to take forward, as appropriate, the recommendations of the report, with the aim of further improving the effectiveness of the Peacebuilding Commission.

It is my understanding that the Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it. Unless I hear any objection, I shall put the draft resolution to the vote now.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, China, France, Gabon, Japan, Lebanon, Mexico, Nigeria, Russian Federation, Turkey, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

The President: There were 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 1947 (2010).

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

As this may be the last Council meeting under the presidency of Uganda, I wish to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to all of my colleagues in the Council, who have extended most valuable cooperation to my delegation. I also wish to thank the team of the Security Council secretariat and all other United Nations Secretariat staff, who have worked behind the scenes to support the work of the presidency.

The meeting rose at 3.10 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.6415

Security Council

Sixty-fifth year

Provisional

6415th meeting

Wednesday, 3 November 2010, 10 a.m.
New York

President:	Sir Mark Lyall Grant	(United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)
Members:	Austria	Mr. Lutterotti
	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Mr. Barbalić
	Brazil	Mr. Moreira
	China	Mr. Wang Min
	France	Mr. Araud
	Gabon	Mr. Onanga Ndiaye
	Japan	Ms. Okai
	Lebanon	Mr. Salam
	Mexico	Mr. Puente
	Nigeria	Mr. Onemola
	Russian Federation	Mr. Dolgov
	Turkey	Ms. Dinç
	Uganda	Mr. Rugunda
	United States of America	Ms. Anderson

Agenda

The situation in Côte d'Ivoire

Progress report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (S/2010/537)

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10-61808 (E)

Please recycle

The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Expression of thanks to the retiring President

The President: As this is the first meeting of the Security Council under the British presidency for November, I should like to take this opportunity to pay tribute, on behalf of the Security Council, to His Excellency Mr. Ruhakana Rugunda and to the Ugandan delegation for their service as President of the Security Council for the month of October. I am sure I speak on behalf of all members of the Council in thanking Ambassador Rugunda for his excellent stewardship of the Council in what was a very busy and important month.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Côte d'Ivoire

Progress report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (S/2010/537)

The President: I should like to inform the Council that I have received a letter from the representative of Côte d'Ivoire, in which he requests to be invited to participate in the consideration of the item on the Council's agenda. In accordance with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite that representative to participate in the consideration of the item without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. N'Gbichi (Côte d'Ivoire) took a seat at the Council table.

The President: In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, I shall take it that the Security Council agrees to extend an invitation under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure to Mr. Choi Young-Jin, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Côte d'Ivoire and head of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire.

It is so decided.

I wish to welcome Special Representative Choi, who is joining today's meeting via video-teleconference from Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Security Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

I wish to draw the attention of members to document S/2010/537, which contains the progress report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire.

I now invite Council members to hear a briefing by Mr. Choi Young-Jin, to whom I give the floor.

Mr. Choi: During my most recent briefing to the Security Council, I highlighted a major breakthrough in the Ivorian electoral process: the establishment on 9 September of the voters list comprising over 5.7 million people, which I certified explicitly on 24 September. Starting on 7 October, Ivorians began collecting their voters and identity cards from distributions centres throughout the country. The distribution operation was conducted successfully and most of the people were able to collect their cards. Everywhere, Ivorians were thrilled to finally be able to have their identity and voters card, as the issue of identification had been at the centre of the Ivorian crisis.

Meanwhile, electoral campaigning was launched on 15 October and was conducted in a commendable manner, with the Ivorian presidential candidates adhering to the provisions of the code of good conduct signed by the political parties in April 2008 in the presence of Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. The candidates travelled in the various regions of Côte d'Ivoire to present their electoral platforms. Electoral campaigning aroused passions and emotions, but was conducted in a peaceful environment throughout the country thanks to the good sense of discipline and mutual respect demonstrated by all.

After two weeks of campaigning, the presidential election was held on 31 October, as planned. Election day was marked as much by the enthusiasm of the population as by the respect for democratic principles. The population responded massively to the call of the political leaders to cast their votes. The turnout was over 80 per cent — one of the highest in the world. The voting itself took place in a calm and orderly manner,

and no major human rights violation was recorded, which is impressive given that reunification is yet to be realized. The Ivorian people rose to the occasion, showing the international community their political maturity and determination to put an end to the crisis.

According to the electoral timetable published by the Independent Electoral Commission, the provisional result of the election is to be announced today but is yet to materialize. Here in Côte d'Ivoire, people are eagerly awaiting the result of the election. Beginning on the evening of 2 November, the Independent Electoral Commission began announcing partial preliminary results. As of this morning, more than 2.5 million voters had been publicly counted by the Independent Electoral Commission.

The United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) has provided and continues to provide technical and logistical support to the Independent Electoral Commission, including the transport of the crucial voting reports to the central Independent Electoral Commission in Abidjan.

The final result of the election is planned to be proclaimed by the Constitutional Council by 10 November. Should no candidate receive a majority of votes in the first round, a second round will be necessary. According to the current electoral timetable, electoral campaigning for the second round would begin on 12 November, and the second round of the presidential election would be held on 28 November.

The President: I thank Mr. Choi for his briefing.

There are no further speakers on my list. In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, I now invite Council members to informal consultations to continue our discussion on the subject.

The meeting rose at 10.15 a.m.

United Nations S PV.6416

Security Council

Sixty-fifth year

Provisional

6416th meeting

Friday, 5 November 2010, 10 a.m.

New York

President:	Sir Mark Lyall Grant	(United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)
Members:	Austria	Mr. Ebner
	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Mr. Barbalić
	Brazil	Mrs. Viotti
	China	Mr. Wang Min
	France	Mr. Briens
	Gabon	Mr. Onanga Ndiaye
	Japan	Mr. Kodama
	Lebanon	Mr. Salam
	Mexico	Mr. Heller
	Nigeria	Mr. Onemola
	Russian Federation	Mr. Dolgov
	Turkey	Mr. Apakan
	Uganda	Mr. Mugoya
	United States of America	Ms. Anderson

Agenda

The situation in Guinea-Bissau

Report of the Secretary-General on developments in Guinea-Bissau and on the activities of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in that country (S/2010/550)

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10-62182 (E)

Please recycle

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Guinea-Bissau

Report of the Secretary-General on developments in Guinea-Bissau and on the activities of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in that country (S/2010/550)

The President: I should like to inform the Council that I have received a letter from the representative of Guinea-Bissau, in which he requests to be invited to participate in the consideration of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite that representative to participate in the consideration of the item, without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Da Gama (Guinea-Bissau) took a seat at the Council table.

The President: In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, I shall take it that the Security Council agrees to extend an invitation under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure to Mr. Joseph Mutaboba, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and head of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau.

It is so decided.

I invite Mr. Mutaboba to take a seat at the Council table.

In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, I shall also take it that the Security Council agrees to extend an invitation under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure to Her Excellency Mrs. Maria Luiza Ribeiro Viotti, Permanent Representative of Brazil, in her capacity as Chair of the Guinea-Bissau configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission.

It is so decided.

I should like to inform the Council that I have received a letter from the Permanent Representative of Gabon to the United Nations, in which he requests that the Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission for Guinea-Bissau, His Excellency Mr. Sebastião Isata, be invited to participate in accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure. If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the Council agrees to extend an invitation to him under rule 39.

It is so decided.

I invite Mr. Isata to take a seat at the Council table.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

I wish to draw the attention of members to document S/2010/550, which contains the report of the Secretary-General on developments in Guinea-Bissau and on the activities of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in that country.

At this meeting, the Security Council will hear briefings by Mr. Joseph Mutaboba, Her Excellency Mrs. Maria Luiza Ribeiro Viotti and His Excellency Mr. Sebastião Isata. I would like to remind the briefers to keep their remarks to 10 minutes, and I shall hold them to that time limit.

I now give the floor to Mr. Joseph Mutaboba.

Mr. Mutaboba: In my presentation today, I will focus mainly on the most recent political and security developments, as well as on efforts by the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS) and partners to help materialize ongoing plans by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries (CPLP), in addition to bilateral and other multilateral partners, in support of the nationally-owned holistic approach to security sector reform and efforts to protect and stabilize key State institutions and sustain a genuine and inclusive political dialogue among and within the leadership and opposition in Guinea-Bissau.

Following the seventh working session of the International Contact Group on Guinea-Bissau, held on 24 September in New York, and the subsequent

publication of the letter addressed by President Malam Bacai Sanhá to the Chairman of ECOWAS, President Goodluck Jonathan of Nigeria, intensive consultations have taken place in the subregion with a view to reaching consensus on the scope, modalities and timing for the finalization and implementation of the joint CPLP-ECOWAS partnership. The Secretary of State for External Relations of Angola, Mr. George Chikoti, undertook a visit to Abuja, Nigeria, in mid-October for consultations with the ECOWAS Commission on the way forward. He subsequently visited several capitals in the subregion to further discuss practical arrangements for assisting the Government of Guinea-Bissau within the framework of the joint CPLP-ECOWAS partnership.

In that context, I met last week in Luanda with President José Eduardo dos Santos of Angola, who informed me of his support for the activation of a joint technical security sector reform task force, comprising ECOWAS, CPLP, the African Union and the United Nations, in order to enhance coordination and facilitate resource mobilization efforts for priority security sector reform activities. The work of such an inter-agency task force would fit naturally within ongoing initiatives, such as the continuous and multidimensional support that UNIOGBIS is providing to the nationally-owned security sector reform coordination mechanisms. That move is consistent with the recommendations made in the last communiqué of the International Contact Group on Guinea-Bissau and with the views expressed by the national authorities of Guinea-Bissau, who insist that the proposed partnership between CPLP and ECOWAS should be closely coordinated and supported by the United Nations.

Under current plans, the proposed road map put together in August by the Chiefs of Defence Staff of ECOWAS and Angola — in the name of CPLP — is aligned with the existing national strategic framework for security sector reform of Guinea-Bissau and provides for the protection of members of key national institutions, as well for training and mentoring of defence forces and members of police institutions. It should be recalled that police institutions are already supported bilaterally by partners such as Portugal and Brazil, as well as by UNIOGBIS. Angola has, for its part, prepared plans to also assist with further training activities and the rehabilitation of some of the infrastructure of the defence forces and security institutions, including the training academy of Cumere, where the training of the elements to be retained in the armed forces will be carried out.

Once the endorsement of the joint CPLP-ECOWAS framework of assistance to Guinea-Bissau is finalized by national and regional partners, UNIOGBIS will be prepared to present a comprehensive briefing to the Security Council detailing the proposed modalities, timing and resources related to the implementation of the framework. The national authorities of Guinea-Bissau are of the view that formal support from the Security Council for that initiative would be crucial. That position is shared by the leadership of CPLP, ECOWAS and the African Union. However, it is crucial to ensure that the political, technical and financial support extended by regional partners and the United Nations to Guinea-Bissau authorities produces tangible results within a defined timeline and is not perceived as an open-ended commitment. In other words, such support should be based on clear benchmarks to measure progress. In addition, the authorities should show clear signs of commitment to restructuring the armed forces and revitalizing their leadership.

In that context, support for the security sector reform priorities, including the pension fund and capacity-building initiatives, is urgent. I therefore strongly encourage all interested partners to boost their support to security sector reform priorities in Guinea-Bissau within a multilateral and/or bilateral framework, as an urgent means to help consolidate peace and stability in the country and promote good governance and sustainable development.

The non-implementation of the recent decision by the Supreme Military Court to release from detention the former Chief of Defense Staff, Vice Admiral Zamora Induta, demonstrates the continued predominance of the military leadership over the judiciary, and to some extent the executive. It will undoubtedly increase the reluctance of some international partners to engage with the authorities of Guinea-Bissau, as it underlines the lack of civilian oversight over the armed forces and the existing environment of impunity in the country. Urgent actions should therefore be taken by the national authorities of Guinea-Bissau to demonstrate their resolve to fight impunity and promote national reconciliation.

With regard to the establishment of a genuine political dialogue within the leadership of Guinea-Bissau, I am pleased to report that, on 14 October, President Malam Bacai Sanhá and Prime Minister Carlos Gomes Júnior met with the diplomatic community in Bissau as part of our efforts on the ground to engage the two leaders on issues of crucial interest for the stability of the country and to help them overcome alleged mistrust between them. Furthermore, in recent weeks, divisions within the ruling African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde have continued to deepen. Against that background, I will continue to use my good offices, with the support of international partners in Bissau, to ensure that the two leaders stay the course in fulfilling their commitment to the stabilization of the country.

Meanwhile, with regard to the investigations into the March and June 2009 political assassinations, UNIOGBIS has continued to insist, along with the Office of the Prosecutor General, that any assistance from international partners to complete the investigations had to be linked to a commitment by national institutions to jointly assess the credibility and transparency of the investigation process conducted so far.

Let me now turn to the issue of the fight against drug trafficking and organized crime. The Council will recall that in recent months I strongly advocated for a holistic response, involving not only transit countries like Guinea-Bissau but also countries of origin and destination. I am encouraged to note that in recent weeks, and in particular during a visit I undertook to Europe in September, a number of partners have demonstrated interest in engaging in more robust strategies to tackle illicit drug trafficking and organized crime.

We are also exploring with the national authorities a memorandum of understanding that would allow vessels from international partners to conduct policing activities in the territorial waters of Guinea-Bissau — similar to those conducted in Cape Verde and Senegal — with the collaboration of trained police officers and including the strengthening and enhancement of national structures to counter transnational crime, notably drug trafficking and organized crime.

Lastly, I continue to advocate for interested partners to extend their assistance to Guinea-Bissau in terms of equipment for airports, ports and borders, to enhance control and deterrence in the fight against drug trafficking and organized crime. Let me stress, however, that regional actors face significant difficulties in collecting reliable statistics and evidence of drug trafficking activities. Hopefully, with the establishment of transnational crime units in support of ECOWAS plans to curb drug trafficking, the implementation of the West Africa Coast Initiative will help improve such a situation.

I am pleased to confirm that in Guinea-Bissau the legal, political and operational conditions for the establishment of a transnational crime unit have been met. UNIOGBIS has the capacity to follow up on this process, in close collaboration with international and national partners. However, more robust action from the international community is still needed — for example, to name and shame entities involved in those activities and to pass legislation to allow the freeze or confiscation of assets and bank accounts, which could help deter and combat such destabilizing phenomena. Other mechanisms to further enhance data collection and information-sharing at regional and international levels could possibly be considered.

Although Guinea-Bissau has seen a series of setbacks, which have contributed to the increased feeling of frustration among some international partners, there have nevertheless been some positive steps and developments that are worth mentioning without going into detail. The national authorities were able to flush out ghost civil servants by adopting a new salary payment method. Salaries are paid regularly. The national reconciliation and dialogue conference process was launched on 19 August. The national justice system policy was adopted. The national Security Sector Reform Steering Committee has resumed its work. And our offices have co-located with the Secretariat, which is a boost.

An understanding between the President and the Prime Minister led to an official request for assistance in the fight against drug trafficking in a letter that the Secretary-General has received and that I trust will be forwarded to the Council. The pension fund legislative framework has been finalized and security sector reform legislative packages approved. Progress has been made on police reform, including the vetting of police officers and the construction of a model police station. And the African Union has established a

permanent presence in Bissau, whose representative is here today.

In closing, and as stated in the report before the Council, if endorsed, the CPLP-ECOWAS road map, together with the pledges already made by CPLP member States for assistance in the areas of holistic security sector reform, should contribute to enhancing the protection of State institutions and increased civilian oversight over military structures. This partnership should also help create conditions for the implementation of critical aspects of the security sector reform programme, including the retirement, reinsertion and reintegration of military personnel, including former combatants, and the fight against impunity, drug trafficking and organized crime. Hopefully, if well articulated and coordinated, it should create conditions for the renewed commitment of donors and other key partners to continue to support the economic reforms and debt relief programmes for Guinea-Bissau.

This emerging momentum has reopened a window of opportunity for enhanced collaboration between the international community and the leadership of Guinea-Bissau following months of impasse. UNIOGBIS, under my leadership, will continue to ensure that this opportunity is not missed.

The President: I thank Mr. Mutaboba for his briefing.

I now give the floor to Ambassador Viotti.

Mrs. Viotti: I thank you, Mr. President, for the invitation to brief the Security Council in my capacity as Chair of the Guinea-Bissau configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC). I extend a warm welcome to the Permanent Representative of Guinea-Bissau to the United Nations. I also thank Special Representative of the Secretary-General Joseph Mutaboba for his remarks and his work as head of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau. I also extend a very warm welcome to the representative of the African Union to Guinea-Bissau.

The events of 1 April and the Government's response to them raised concerns in the international community. Guinea-Bissau's partners believe that it is important for the country to show stronger commitment to the principle of civilian control of the military, the fight against drug trafficking and effective reform of the security sector. At the same time, there seems to be consensus that continued engagement with Guinea-Bissau is necessary to assist the country in building democratic governance and effectively addressing key challenges. What is needed now is to identify the kind of support that the international community can provide under the current circumstances to help enhance national political stability, promote reconciliation and combat impunity and organized crime.

During the past few months, the Peacebuilding Commission has sought to remain engaged with Guinea-Bissau on the basis of the principle of mutual accountability. We have attempted to clearly convey to the authorities the need to effectively and promptly address some issues of grave concern to the international community, while reiterating our willingness to continue to support the country in its efforts towards political stability and socioeconomic development.

On 16 July, the country-specific configuration held a meeting in New York with the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Guinea-Bissau, Mr. Adelino Mano Queta. On that occasion, he reiterated that security sector reform was his Government's top priority and the only way to achieve stability in the country. He also deplored the scourge of drug trafficking. He indicated that his country cannot address these problems by itself and requested the continued support of the international community. Members of the configuration expressed their concern with the events of 1 April, the continued detention of Admiral Zamora Induta and other officers, as well as with subsequent appointments in the military. They stressed the need for civilian control of the armed forces. Members also emphasized the need to stay engaged with Guinea-Bissau and extend to it the necessary support in an atmosphere of mutual accountability.

Other initiatives are also noteworthy. Bilateral meetings, consultations with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries (CPLP) and a meeting of the International Contact Group have discussed the situation in Guinea-Bissau and possible avenues for international engagement.

Security sector reform continues to be critical to addressing the recurrent political instability in the country and strengthening civilian control over the

armed forces. At the same time, efforts in this area cannot ignore the current circumstances. A reflection is currently under way as to how we can best help Guinea-Bissau move forward in security sector reform at this juncture. In any case, it will be important to continue to support regional efforts conducted by ECOWAS and CPLP, as was just described by Mr. Mutaboba.

Another issue of grave concern to the members of the PBC is drug trafficking. An effective fight against illegal drugs requires functioning State institutions, especially in the areas of justice and security, as well as firm political will. The latter is key to securing the international assistance that Guinea-Bissau needs to increase its national capacity in this domain. Those efforts must be reinforced by a regional approach. We therefore emphasize the importance of the role played by ECOWAS. Also, in this regard, both as individual Governments and collectively, we must all do more and better to support the implementation of the ECOWAS regional action plan and the West Africa Coast Initiative.

International efforts to help consolidate peace in Guinea-Bissau should not rest solely on security-related cooperation. In order for peace to take hold, the foundations for socio-economic development must be strengthened. We need to support capacity-building and help the country revitalize its economy. At the end of the day, it is a dynamic economy and the creation of job opportunities that will generate the revenues needed to provide basic services to the population and allow the State to function in a sustainable manner.

In spite of the challenges remaining, Guinea-Bissau has made significant progress in managing its economy and promoting development. In 2008 and 2009, export revenues increased and the Government was able to pay civil service salaries on time. As indicated by the Secretary-General in his latest report (S/2010/550), tax revenues increased by an impressive 46.9 per cent in the first quarter of 2010. Important infrastructure was completed. With the support of the International Monetary Fund, Guinea-Bissau has advanced fiscal management in a way that is expected to lead the country towards the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative (HIPC) completion point. I invite all concerned parties, including the Peacebuilding Fund, to reaffirm, in concrete terms, their support for that goal.

Despite the recurring challenges, we must persevere in our collective efforts to support Guinea-Bissau. That requires that international partners look beyond current setbacks and support long-term political and economic stability. It also means that the national authorities, including the military, must fully restore international confidence.

The President: I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Sebastiao Isata.

Mr. Isata: I would like, first of all, to congratulate you, Mr. President, on your assumption of the presidency of the Council and to express, on behalf of the African Union (AU), my sincere gratitude for the opportunity given us to join this important meeting on Guinea-Bissau. Personally, I am honoured to address the Council for the first time in my present capacity. We attach great significance to this engagement within the context of the growing partnership between the African Union and the Security Council, and with the United Nations as a whole.

Once again, the Security Council is called on to assume the responsibility for which it was established: the maintenance of international peace and security. Today, we gather to continue our efforts on the situation in Guinea-Bissau, a country that has been living in a cycle of political instability for decades, a result of the weakness of the State institutions and legal system, particularly the administration of criminal justice.

We are grateful for the comprehensive briefing provided by the colleagues who preceded me. I will be very brief in discussing just a few points, from our point of view, concerning the situation on the ground.

As a result of the absence of the effective rule of law and the spread of drug trafficking, corruption and poverty — which have been pervasive there for many years — Guinea-Bissau has experienced decades of instability. The African Union, to strengthen its efforts to help bring an end to that chronic problem and restore constitutional normality, decided to open a permanent office in Guinea-Bissau, as a first step in the development of a joint stabilization mission of the AU and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), pursuant to the decision of the Assembly of the African Union at its special session held in August 2009 in Tripoli, Libya.

We are pleased to note at this juncture that, despite all the difficulties it faces, Guinea-Bissau has shown encouraging signs regarding the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the African Union and the international community. Those signs can be summarized as follows.

President Malam Bacai Sanhá and Prime Minister Carlos Gomes Júnior made a commitment to end their differences, expressed on 14 October before the diplomatic corps following AU-United Nations efforts on the ground. On that same occasion, an official announcement was made of their decision to accept deployment of a joint AU-ECOWAS stabilization mission, with a mandate for further peacebuilding and stability, as well as post-conflict reconstruction and development, in conformity with the Tripoli Plan of Action adopted by the African Union Assembly on 21 August 2009. Guinea-Bissau's Parliament accepted the African Union proposal aimed at passing legislation criminalizing the trafficking, possession, transfer and processing of drugs. The judicial branch showed its determination to continue and effectively conclude the criminal investigation into the murders perpetrated in March and June 2009. The Guinea-Bissau authorities accepted the African Union proposal for the creation of a truth and national reconciliation commission as the last stage of the forthcoming National Reconciliation Conference. And Guinea-Bissau's Government obtained positive results in its implementation of the recommendations of the Bretton Woods institutions.

On the issue of drug trafficking, despite the legal measures to be adopted, the creation and training of a special rapid-deployment police force with modern equipment is imperative. The Truth and National Reconciliation Commission is intended to bring moral reparation for the injury done to the relatives of victims of the various crimes that occurred in recent years in Guinea-Bissau, and to launch genuine national reconciliation among the people of Guinea-Bissau. However, it is important to point out that the Commission must not be seen as a substitute for the legal measures already in progress.

Considering the positive signs that the authorities of Guinea-Bissau have shown, the African Union believes that holding a donors conference for the country will constitute an incentive for efforts to reform the defence and security sectors — a cornerstone in promoting democracy, the rule of law and good governance. The conference will also contribute to alleviating the pervasive poverty that Guinea Bissau-faces, another cause and source of instability.

In the interdependent world of today, prosperity and stability are indivisible concepts. Today, we are confronted with the choice of continuing our commitment to supporting the Government and people of Guinea-Bissau, a nation in despair, or abandoning it to an unknown fate. However, it is important to note that the path we choose to follow will constitute the standard by which the future will assess our efforts. We are confident that the Security Council's more than 60-year experience, coupled with increasing mobilization of other actors for international peace and security around the world, will provide a rich and solid base from which we can draw innovative ideas for supporting the efforts of the people and Government of Guinea-Bissau to restore lasting peace and security in their country.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Guinea-Bissau.

Mr. Da Gama (Guinea-Bissau) (*spoke in French*): Since this is the first time that I take the floor in the Security Council in my capacity as Permanent Representative of Guinea-Bissau to the United Nations, I wish to congratulate you, Mr. President, on your assumption of the presidency of the Council for the month of November. I would also like to express our gratitude to Council members for the understanding they have shown towards my country, which has been on the Council's agenda for a little more than 12 years.

I would also like to take this opportunity to warmly thank the Secretary-General for his report (S/2010/550) and the particular attention he has been devoting to my country, Guinea-Bissau. I also thank the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Ambassador Mutaboba; the Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission for Guinea-Bissau, Mr. Sebastião da Silva Isata; and the Permanent Representative of Brazil and Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission's configuration for Guinea-Bissau, Ambassador Maria Luiza Viotti, for their presentations and the excellent work they have been carrying out for Guinea-Bissau.

Guinea-Bissau has experienced some difficult times over the past 12 years as a result, among other things, of our now-concluded struggle for liberation and the lack of adequate means to support those men

and women who, through their great determination, ensured our country's sovereignty. Because of them, we can stand before you today as representatives of a legitimate State.

Many of those men and women, our former freedom fighters, are fearful of being abandoned, as happened in the past, and are thus still active as soldiers, despite their advanced age that prevents them from serving effectively in the army.

This situation is compounded by the country's enormous economic and financial difficulties and by the lack of adequate infrastructure and factories, in particular for processing commodities such as cashew nuts, for which there is significant global demand. These nuts are mostly processed in India without any added value for my country, thus depriving our youth, who make up over 60 per cent of the population, of employment opportunities.

To remedy the situation, our State institutions are trying to reform the national army and adapt it to the requirements for a modern army, one that is entirely subservient to political authority, in conformity with the rule of law. That was stated by our President, His Excellency Mr. Malam Bacai Sanhá, during his speech on 25 September 2010 at the open debate of the General Assembly, as follows:

> "The reform that we desire in our defence and security sector, for which we have sought international assistance, has become a matter of prime urgency and extreme sensitivity." (A/65/PV.16)

Despite the events of 1 April, which were promptly condemned by the legitimate authorities of the country and by the entire international community, Guinea-Bissau continues to seek a path towards political stability.

In this respect, we are planning an international reconciliation conference, to be held next year, which should allow all political and military stakeholders, as well as civil society, in Guinea-Bissau to explore ways to build peace in the country. We must note here that that initiative is supported by the main political, military and religious leaders and by civil society.

I would also like to mention that the Government has undertaken substantial work to continue to strengthen its credibility with the international financial institutions through appropriate reforms and by demonstrating great budgetary discipline, in order to achieve, by the end of 2010, the completion point of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative.

Thanks to improvements in the management of public finances, which have brought about positive economic results, salaries are being paid on a regular basis, thus defusing the social tensions that prevailed previously.

Guinea-Bissau remains determined to fight drug trafficking relentlessly, including by adopting laws that criminalize the possession, transfer and processing of drugs and that strengthen the capacities of the police and judiciary, while recalling that this effort must be a regional undertaking. In that connection, we would not deny that substantial progress has been made, despite the very limited logistical means and the geography of the country, which is an isolated area that includes over 80 islands in the Bijagós Archipelago.

In this regard, we welcome the decision taken at the summit of heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), held in Praia, Cape Verde, in July 2010. That decision called on the Community's Commission to study, together with the European Union and other relevant partners, all of the synergies that would enable an immediate implementation of the ECOWAS regional plan of action to combat the scourge of drug trafficking.

I must also highlight the visits undertaken by the civilian and military leaders of the country to Brazil to seek technical military assistance; to Angola to strengthen relations in the economic, defence and security areas; and to Cuba, to strengthen bilateral relations.

In that context and as the Secretary-General did in his report, we would like to commend the joint efforts by ECOWAS, under the Nigerian presidency, and by the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries (CPLP), under the Angolan presidency, aimed at adopting a common plan of action to provide assistance to our country, as recently requested by our President.

We are very confident that, with the new ECOWAS/CPLP partnerships and the implementation of the road map recently adopted by the ECOWAS Chiefs of Defence Staff, which will shortly be endorsed by the ECOWAS Council of Ministers, the stabilization

mission that will be sent primarily to provide training and support peacebuilding and stability, and efforts to promote reconstruction and post-conflict development, it will become possible for the country to be definitively stabilized and for it to be able to focus on sustainable development.

We are aware that the primary responsibility for development and stability in the country falls on the people of Guinea-Bissau themselves, but, despite the Government's efforts, our country remains dependent on international solidarity, assistance and cooperation. We find ourselves faced with the inescapable and urgent need to reform our defence and security sectors. A pension fund is needed for those sectors in order to adequately compensate those who fought for our freedom and enable them to return home once and for all.

Beyond that reform, we also need a wider reform, in particular one targeting the public administration aimed at providing our public services with the means to deal with the many challenges we face in terms of development and stability. In that regard, the Government remains committed to holding a high-level meeting and a roundtable discussion for donors. This was initially planned for 2010 but unfortunately could not be held, given the tragic events of 1 April.

Our country has an area of a little over 36,000 square kilometres and a population of approximately 1.6 million. If our partners wake up tomorrow and decide to bolster the work of the United Nations, the African Union, ECOWAS, CPLP and other partners on the ground, Guinea-Bissau will soon become a stable and developed country that no longer needs to be on the agenda of the Council.

We thank our development partners, including the European Union, ECOWAS, CPLP, the African Union, the United Nations, Angola, Brazil, Portugal, Spain, the People's Republic of China and others, for everything they have been doing to help us. Now is the time to help us more, so that we can hope to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

We would therefore like to reiterate our call to all our partners to continue in the same spirit of friendship, solidarity and cooperation with the people and democratic institutions of Guinea-Bissau. Just as President Sanhá stated during the general debate of the General Assembly, "it is now, in our current circumstances, that our country most needs such support." (A/65/PV.16) This is indeed the time when Guinea-Bissau needs sustainable investment and work in the political, development and security areas, and stronger commitments by the entire international community to be able to fulfil the aspirations of its people and its legitimate authorities.

To conclude, I would like to once again take this opportunity to thank all the members of the Council for their continuing interest in and commitment to Guinea-Bissau and convey to them once again my country's gratitude for resolution 1876 (2009), which established the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau, under the wise leadership of Ambassador Joseph Mutaboba, enabling our country to benefit from the focused assistance and support of the United Nations.

The President: I thank Ambassador Da Gama for his contribution this morning.

In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, I now invite Council members to informal consultations to continue our discussion of the subject.

The meeting rose at 10.50 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.6417

Security Council

Sixty-fifth year

Provisional

6417th meeting

Tuesday, 9 November 2010, 10 a.m.
New York

President:	Sir Mark Lyall Grant	(United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)
Members:	Austria	Mr. Mayr-Harting
	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Mr. Barbalić
	Brazil	Mrs. Viotti
	China	Mr. Wang Min
	France	Mr. Briens
	Gabon	Mr. Onanga Ndiaye
	Japan	Mr. Nishida
	Lebanon	Ms. Ziade
	Mexico	Mr. Heller
	Nigeria	Mrs. Ogwu
	Russian Federation	Mr. Churkin
	Turkey	Mr. Müftüoğlu
	Uganda	Mr. Mugoya
	United States of America	Ms. Rice

Agenda

The situation in Somalia

Report of the Secretary-General pursuant to Security Council resolution 1897 (2009) (S/2010/556)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-506.

10-62873 (E)

Please recycle

The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Somalia

Report of the Secretary-General pursuant to Security Council resolution 1897 (2009) (S/2010/556)

The President: I should like to inform the Council that I have received a letter from the representative of Somalia, in which he requests to be invited to participate in the consideration of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite that representative to participate in the consideration of the item, without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Duale (Somalia) took a seat at the Council table.

The President: In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, I shall take it that the Security Council agrees to extend an invitation under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure to Mr. Lynn Pascoe, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, I shall take it that the Security Council agrees to extend an invitation under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure to Mr. Yury Fedotov, Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

I invite Mr. Fedotov to take a seat at the Council table.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

I wish to draw the attention of the members of the Council to the report of the Secretary-General pursuant to resolution 1897 (2009), which is contained in document S/2010/556.

At this meeting, the Security Council will hear briefings by Mr. Lynn Pascoe and Mr. Yuri Fedotov.

I now give the floor to Mr. Pascoe.

Mr. Pascoe: I thank you, Mr. President, for the opportunity to present the Secretary-General's latest report on piracy and armed robbery at sea off the coast of Somalia (S/2010/556).

Piracy is a menace that it outpacing efforts by the international community to stem it. The numbers are appalling. As of 4 November, the International Maritime Organization (IMO) reports that over 438 seafarers and passengers and 20 ships are being held by pirates. That is an increase of almost 100 kidnapped victims in less than a month. As always, we of course call for the immediate release of all individuals still in the hands of Somali pirates.

Pirates are also taking greater risks and seeking higher ransoms. Just a few days ago, for instance, a European Union warship escorting supplies for the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) was brazenly attacked by Somali pirates from a large freighter that had itself been seized about a month ago.

These acts continue to have serious effects on the regional economies of East Africa and the economies of the wider world. In addition, sea-based transport routes for humanitarian and peacekeeping assistance are crucial to maintaining a vital lifeline for Somalia and to providing hope for the Somali people.

The problems would be worse if not for the very considerable international anti-piracy efforts that are now under way. Member States have put in place a strong naval presence off the coast of Somalia, with an unprecedented level of coordination of navies in this area. The Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia, which now has 53 participants, is also scaling up other efforts to counter piracy.

International naval forces and coalitions off the coast of Somalia have disrupted more pirate operations and protected more vessels than ever before. Also, more has been done to implement self-protection recommendations developed by the shipping industry and the International Maritime Organization. We are

deeply grateful to the European Union, NATO and all Member States participating in the protection at sea of World Food Programme humanitarian shipments and deliveries contracted by the United Nations Support Office for AMISOM.

But much more is required to tackle the root causes of piracy off the coast of Somalia. The United Nations, through the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Somalia, Mr. Augustine Mahiga, is playing a key role in helping to integrate the vital work of the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia, the Transitional Federal Government's own piracy task force, military action by various navies, and the development of the security, economic and humanitarian sectors into an overall strategy for Somalia. A revitalized Kampala process is one of the key mechanisms to make sure that Somalis themselves, in their various administrative regions, work together.

As indicated in the Secretary-General's report, fighting piracy demands simultaneous action on three fronts: deterrence, security and the rule of law, and development.

I shall now turn to deterrence. First, more needs to be done to deter attacks against ships. In this regard, we would like to appeal once again to all ships traversing the seas off the coast of Somalia to follow the recommendations of the IMO and industry-developed best management practices. Such measures have proved effective in significantly reducing the risk of being hijacked. This should be seen as a first line of defence and is an area where the private sector is expected to play its part.

Regional cooperation is also critical. Two more Member States, Jordan and Oman, signed the Djibouti Code of Conduct this year, bringing the total number of signatories to 16. IMO has assisted in the implementation of the Code, which has resulted in the establishment of three regional counter-piracy information-sharing centres in Tanzania, Kenya and Yemen; the construction of a training facility in Djibouti; and capacity-building in legal and maritime law enforcement issues.

Deterrence also requires that those found guilty of piracy and armed robbery face prosecution according to international law. We welcome the significant steps taken to improve legal and prosecution capacities. We are grateful to those 10 countries currently shouldering this burden. I should like to acknowledge in particular Kenya and Seychelles for their efforts to prosecute suspected pirates.

A number of States in the region have pointed out that it would be very difficult for them to sustain prosecution efforts and the imprisonment of convicted pirates without commensurate financial support. The Trust Fund to Support Initiatives of States Countering Piracy off the Coast of Somalia has proved to be a useful instrument for supporting initiatives in this area, but it needs more funding. I urge Member States and the maritime industry to contribute generously to the Trust Fund. My colleague, Mr. Yury Fedotov, Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, will provide more details on the issues related to legal capacity-building.

Long-term imprisonment arrangements for convicted pirates, ideally in Somalia, still need to be identified. In his recent report on legal issues related to piracy off the coast of Somalia (S/2010/394), the Secretary-General put forward seven possible options for furthering the aim of prosecuting and imprisoning suspected pirates. The same report reminded us of the applicability of international human rights law to countering piracy off the coast of Somalia.

The Secretary-General's Special Adviser on Legal Issues related to Piracy off the Coast of Somalia, Mr. Jack Lang, is carrying out further consultations on the subject. He recently travelled to the region, including Somalia. The Secretary-General looks forward to receiving his recommendations before the end of the year.

The second pillar of an integrated response to piracy is establishing security and the rule of law in Somalia. The United Nations, the Contact Group on Piracy and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development are all working to develop the capacity of Somalia to deal with piracy on land and close inshore waters. This is linked to the broader efforts to develop Somalia's justice and security sectors. In this connection, strengthening the Somali police and establishing a coast guard or a coastal monitoring capability should be an integral part of the debate about piracy. The Somali security institutions must also be provided with predictable funding to allow them to undertake their functions.

Special Representative Mahiga will continue working closely with newly appointed Prime Minister Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed to ensure that more

focus is placed on making the Joint Security Committee operational and on moving more rapidly to build Somalia's security forces. It is important that the training of Somalia's security forces be closely coordinated by the United Nations and AMISOM.

Piracy and armed robbery off the coast of Somalia are as also very much an economic issue. The Somali people, especially the young, need greater incentives not to succumb to the lure of the pirate economy. As long as piracy is so lucrative, with ransom payments adding up to tens if not hundreds of millions of dollars, and other economic incentives so bleak, the economic imperative is very obvious. Economic rehabilitation and the creation of alternative livelihoods, especially the development and rehabilitation of coastal fisheries, must be at the centre of our efforts to fight piracy.

Piracy has created a daunting challenge for the people of Somalia and the international community. Warships alone, of course, will not solve the problem. We need to continue to fight this battle in the broadest manner, focusing simultaneously on deterrence, security and the rule of law, as well providing economic alternatives for young Somalis. We must also make piracy and robbery off the coast of Somalia costly by addressing impunity and building the capacity of the Transitional Federal Government to expand its authority and deal with law and order.

The President: I thank Mr. Pascoe for his briefing.

I now give the floor to Mr. Fedotov.

Mr. Fedotov: I thank you, Sir, for inviting me to this meeting of the Security Council to take part in this important discussion on piracy off the coast of Somalia. I hope that my statement will complement Mr. Pascoe's very clear presentation of the Secretary-General's report (S/2010/556).

In the past two years, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), has developed a counter-piracy programme to assist regional countries in prosecuting a significant number of pirates. With the support of the international community, over 700 suspected and convicted pirates are now in detention in 12 countries; more than half of these are in Somalia itself.

Kenya, which has taken the lead in regional prosecutions, is currently trying 69 suspected pirates and has already convicted 50. Seychelles is a small country, but it has undertaken piracy prosecutions far out of proportion to its size, including the trial of 31 suspected pirates, 22 of whom have already been convicted. Mauritius recently declared its intention to help prosecute pirates, and Tanzania and the Maldives have also expressed interest.

It is clear that the prosecution and imprisonment of convicted pirates pose a heavy burden for countries in the region. Initially, regional States were politically cautious about accepting the transfer of suspected pirates under their jurisdiction. While having publicly announced that it was providing its six-month notice to terminate the transfer agreement with the European Union and other countries, Kenya, for example, continues to accept the transfer of pirates for prosecution on a case-by-case basis.

There are also a number of challenges relating to the capacity of regional States. The main concerns in this regard relate to prison conditions and access to defence lawyers. UNODC is addressing these concerns through its counter-piracy programme, both in Kenya and in Seychelles.

The main impediment to regional States' accepting the transfer of suspected pirates for prosecution has been the burden of imprisoning convicted pirates for the length of their sentences, which generally range from 5 to 20 years, as their own prisons are overloaded. The proposal supported by Special Adviser Jack Lang for transferring convicted pirates to Somali prisons and expediting trials within the rule of law of Somalia will require additional implementation efforts from UNODC.

As members of the Council know, UNODC cooperates closely with the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS), serving as secretariat for Working Group 2, on legal issues, and as manager of the CGPCS Trust Fund. UNODC also continues to cooperate in counter-piracy efforts with the International Maritime Organization, INTERPOL, the United Nations Development Programme, the Office of Legal Affairs and, of course, the Department of Political Affairs.

I would like to commend Special Adviser Lang for his thorough frontline investigation into the legal issues surrounding Somali piracy. He has met with me and other UNODC staff on a number of occasions. Last month, he and UNODC representatives went to visit

the courts in Mombasa, Kenya — the site of many of the region's piracy trials — as well as Somalia itself, to inspect the prison that UNODC is operating in "Somaliland" and the prison in Garowe, "Puntland".

It is clear that the only viable long-term solution to the Somali piracy problem is to restore law and order in Somalia, including in its waters. It is also clear that this solution is some years off and will require concerted and coordinated international efforts. In the interim, the UNODC counter-piracy programme, established in 2009, has three major objectives, namely, fair and efficient trials and imprisonment of piracy suspects in regional countries; humane and secure imprisonment in Somalia; and fair and efficient trials in Somalia.

Thus far, the programme has proved effective in supporting efforts to detain and prosecute piracy suspects in compliance with the rule of law and respect for their human rights. Trials are fair and efficient. For example, the 11 pirates convicted in the Seychelles last week were arrested in March. This seven-month time frame compares favourably with piracy trials in North America and Europe. At the same time, the programme is building the capacity of regional States. With the new initiatives funded by the Trust Fund under way, the broader criminal justice systems of Somalia are also being reinforced.

UNODC is committed to playing its part to foster and strengthen development in Somalia. While the difficulties in Somalia are enormous, we are encouraged by the non-partisan cooperation of Somalia's Transitional Federal Government and the authorities of "Puntland" and "Somaliland" on counter-piracy efforts through the Kampala process. The lean but committed team of UNODC staff is working diligently in those parts of Somalia where we are able to operate, and will continue to do so.

There are many challenges before us, but I believe that the ongoing efforts to address the detention and prosecution of suspected Somali pirates are showing some success. With the right support from the international community, those efforts have the potential to become even more effective and lead to a long-term solution. We owe it to the people of Somalia.

The President: I thank Mr. Fedotov for his briefing. I now give the floor to Mr. Elmi Ahmed Duale, Permanent Representative of Somalia.

Mr. Duale (Somalia): Thank you, Mr. President, for allowing me to participate in this meeting and to say a few words. I also thank Security Council members who are still very much seized with the issues that we are discussing today — piracy and the restoration of law and order in Somalia. We hope that stabilization and the restoration of law and order in Somalia, my country, will largely resolve the problem that the international community and Somalia alike face with regard to pirates. Pirates are now present not only in the Gulf of Aden, but also in the Indian Ocean.

Let me first of all thank Under-Secretary-General Pascoe for briefing us on the report (S/2010/556) of the Secretary-General. We support the report because it conveys the real problems faced by the international community in combating piracy off the coast of Somalia, as well as those suffered by neighbouring and far-off countries alike. The Secretary-General has also pinpointed a number of issues that, if taken care of, would in large measure solve the problems we face within and outside of the country.

Let me also thank Mr. Fedotov, of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, for the support that his Office has so far provided with respect to legal aspects of the possibilities for the detention and prosecution of pirates in neighbouring countries. We also thank neighbouring countries that, in spite of the great burden posed to them, have offered support and agreed to detain and prosecute pirates.

I also wish to convey my country's regret that there are still a good number of seafarers who remain in captivity in pirates' dens and ports. We extend our sympathy to the families and the countries of origin of these seafarers. The Transitional Federal Government regrets that this has happened. We hope that it will cease to happen — the sooner the better.

The President: In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, I now invite Council members to informal consultations to continue our discussion of the subject.

The meeting rose at 10.25 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.6418

Security Council

Sixty-fifth year

Provisional

6418th meeting

Wednesday, 10 November 2010, 10.50 a.m.

New York

President:	Sir Mark Lyall Grant	(United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)
Members:	Austria	Mr. Mayr-Harting
	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Ms. Čolaković
	Brazil	Mr. Moretti
	China	Mr. Wang Min
	France	Mr. Bonne
	Gabon	Mr. Issoze-Ngondet
	Japan	Mr. Nishida
	Lebanon	Ms. Ziade
	Mexico	Mr. Puente
	Nigeria	Mrs. Ogwu
	Russian Federation	Mr. Dolgov
	Turkey	Ms. Dinç
	Uganda	Mr. Mugoya
	United States of America	Mrs. DiCarlo

Agenda

The situation concerning Iraq

Third progress report of the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraph 3 of resolution 1905 (2009) (S/2010/563)

Note verbale dated 28 October 2010 from the Permanent Mission of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2010/567)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-506.

10-63109 (E)

Please recycle

The meeting was called to order at 10.50 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation concerning Iraq

Third progress report of the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraph 3 of resolution 1905 (2009) (S/2010/563)

Note verbale dated 28 October 2010 from the Permanent Mission of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2010/567)

The President: I should like to inform the Council that I have received a letter from the representative of Iraq, in which he requests that the Committee of Financial Experts of Iraq be invited to participate in the consideration of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite Mr. Abdul Basit Turky Saed, head of that Committee, to participate in the consideration of the item, without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Abdul Basit Turky Saed (Iraq) took a seat at the Council table.

The President: In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, I shall take it that the Security Council agrees to extend an invitation under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure to Mr. Jun Yamazaki, Controller of the United Nations.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

I invite Mr. Yamazaki to take a seat at the Council table.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

I should like to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2010/563, containing the third report of the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraph 3 of resolution 1905 (2009), and document S/2010/567, containing a note verbale dated 28 October 2010 from the Permanent Mission of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council and its enclosures.

At this meeting, the Security Council will hear briefings by Mr. Jun Yamazaki and Mr. Abdul Basit Turky Saed.

I now give the floor to Mr. Yamazaki.

Mr. Yamazaki: I thank you, Sir, for the opportunity to apprise the Council on the progress made in strengthening financial and administrative oversight of the current Development Fund for Iraq (DFI), on the legal issues and options to be considered to implement successor arrangements, and on the assessment of the Government of Iraq's progress in preparing for the successor arrangements of the DFI, as presented in the Secretary-General's report (S/2010/563) pursuant to paragraph 3 of Security Council resolution 1905 (2005).

With regard to the activities of the DFI and the International Advisory and Monitoring Board (IAMB), on 14 and 15 October the IAMB held its third meeting of 2010 in Amman, Jordan, to continue its oversight role over the use of resources of the DFI. This was its twenty-ninth meeting since its inception in December 2003. The external audit firm KPMG briefed the IAMB on the final 2009 audit reports.

Separately, the newly appointed external audit firm for 2010, PricewaterhouseCoopers, briefed the IAMB on the results of its work for the period from 1 January to 30 June 2010. At the request of the IAMB, the scope of work for the 2010 interim audit had been expanded to include a review of the installation of oil metering. I note from the report of the Government of Iraq that approximately 51 per cent of the total oil meters targeted under the Ministry of Oil's plan had been installed as of 13 September 2010.

In addition, PricewaterhouseCoopers identified further steps required to fully implement the Ministry of Oil's schedule through the end of 2011. In particular, PricewaterhouseCoopers recommended the appointment of a technically qualified independent party to verify the completeness, effectiveness and efficiency of the implementation plan when fully implemented, based on the best practices of the petroleum industry. I note with concern that the

implementation of the plan is already behind schedule, and I encourage the Government of Iraq to make every effort to implement the metering plan on schedule and address the further steps recommended by PricewaterhouseCoopers.

The Office of the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction of the United States was invited to the meeting in Amman, and representatives of that Office briefed the IAMB on their recent report of relevance to the DFI. The July 2010 audit report of the Special Inspector General on the accounting by United States Department of Defense for DFI funds concluded that there were weaknesses in the Department of Defense's financial and management controls over the funds it received for reconstruction activities in Iraq. I note that the Special Inspector General's findings echoed those raised by the IAMB between 2004 and 2006. IAMB agreed on the urgent need for the expeditious implementation of the Special Inspector General's recommendations.

At the meeting in Amman, the representative of the Government of Iraq briefed the IAMB on the progress made in achieving the action plan to ensure the timely and effective transition to a post-Development Fund mechanism by 31 December. In this respect, I note that, in its third quarterly report, the Government of Iraq proposes that immunity for Development Fund for Iraq should be extended for a further year. In his report of 1 April 2010 (S/2010/166), the Secretary-General elaborated on the legal issues relating to the privileges and immunities of the Development Fund for Iraq. In light of this, it is for the Council to assess the proposal of the Government of Iraq and its implications.

With regard to the Iraq escrow account, once all outstanding activities under the oil-for-food programme are concluded, and taking into account issues mentioned in the first report of the Secretary-General pursuant to Security Council resolution 1905 (2005) dated 1 April 2010, other uncommitted remaining funds will need to be transferred from the Iraq escrow account to the DFI.

I would like to recall that, on 12 July, in its second briefing to the Security Council (see S/PV.6356), the Government of Iraq, represented by the head of the Committee of Financial Experts, expressed its readiness to pay 26 outstanding letters of credit under the oil-for-food programme. Separately, on 8 September, the Secretariat received confirmation that the Government of Iraq was willing to pay six additional outstanding letters of credit under the oil-for-food programme, resulting in a total of 32 letters of credit to be paid.

At the time of this briefing, the Secretariat has received the requisite confirmations of arrivals relating to most of the 32 letters of credit that the Government of Iraq has decided to pay. Absent the receipt by the Secretariat of the requisite confirmation of arrival documents for the remaining letters of credit outside the 32 I have mentioned, the Security Council has the option to cancel those remaining letters of credit with outstanding claims of delivery subject to the provision by the Government of Iraq of a comprehensive indemnity with regard to all activities of the Organization, its representatives and agents in connection with the oil-for-food programme since its inception.

This completes my briefing on the Secretary-General's report pursuant to paragraph 3 of Security Council resolution 1905 (2005). I will be happy to respond to any questions from members of the Council relating to the report.

The President: I thank Mr. Yamazaki for his briefing.

I now give the floor to Mr. Basit.

Mr. Turky Saed (Iraq) (*spoke in Arabic*): Allow me to thank you, Sir, for the opportunity to address the Security Council. On the basis of its agreement with the members of the Security Council, the Government or Iraq has submitted its third and final quarterly report (see S/2010/567, annex, enclosure) pursuant to paragraph 3 of resolution 1905 (2009), setting out the following activities in implementation of the provisions of that resolution.

First, with respect to the requirements for successor arrangements for the Development Fund for Iraq (DFI), the Central Bank of Iraq has pursued its contacts with the Federal Reserve Board in connection with the special accounts for the deposit of Bank funds and oil revenues pursuant to the letters exchanged between them, with an emphasis on opening a separate compensation sub-account to which 5 per cent — or any percentage to be agreed upon later — of revenues from oil, oil products or natural gas will be

automatically transferred pursuant to resolution 1483 (2003).

Despite the efforts and contacts made with foreign banks and international financial institutions in this regard, the Government of Iraq could not secure the necessary guarantees to protect Iraq's assets at the level of protection provided by the resolution under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter. In view of the difficult circumstances facing Iraq and the ongoing delay in forming the Government, the Committee of Financial Experts hopes that the Security Council will take into account the efforts of the Government of Iraq to implement the successor arrangements plan when it considers the Government's request to extend the immunities of the DFI for one year in order to enable it to address all outstanding issues.

The Government of Iraq has pursued its contacts with creditor countries outside the Paris Club — in particular Pakistan, Poland, Turkey and Brazil — and called on brotherly and friendly countries to assist it in expediting the settlement of these debts, including those of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries, in the light of the provisions of the Paris Club agreement. The offer of the Government of Iraq to repurchase commercial debt at 10.25 per cent of its total value remains valid. Ernst & Young, the accountancy and auditing firm retained by the Ministry of Finance, continues to follow up this file.

What is obstructing the final resolution of the debt problem are the unknown and unregistered claims. We therefore hope that the Security Council will, in its next resolution, consider setting a deadline for acceptance by the Government of Iraq of the claims of commercial creditors by the end of June 2011. Such a document would closely comply with the provisions of resolution 1905 (2009) and thereby ensure that the Government of Iraq acts in accordance with the regular mechanism for administering Iraqi funds, especially given the fact that this methodology was adopted by the Security Council in accepting compensation claims after the Gulf war in 1990.

With respect to claims inherited from the previous regime, the Governments of Iraq and the United States of America signed an agreement to establish a compensation fund for the claims of United States citizens. The agreement has been ratified by the Iraqi Council of Ministers and referred to Parliament for ratification as well.

The Central Bank of Iraq and the United Nations Controller's Office have settled the outstanding letters of credit under the oil-for-food programme for which documents were provided, and BNP Paribas Bank will be directed to pay the related amounts. In this regard, the Committee of Financial Experts agrees with the reference in the Secretary-General's second quarterly report to the effect that,

> "[a]bsent the receipt by the Secretariat of the requisite confirmations of arrival of the remaining letters of credit, the Security Council may wish to consider cancelling those remaining letters of credit that have outstanding claims of delivery" (*S/2010/359, para. 18*)

to enable the closure of the programme by the end of 2010.

With respect to strengthening financial and administrative control over the DFI, the Government of Iraq has taken the following steps.

Currently, the ministries are working in accordance with valid laws and structural charts. Some have been updated to meet the changes in the nature of their work and are in various stages of referral — either to the Cabinet, the Consultative Council or Parliament — and expected to be approved when Parliament convenes after the formation of the Government.

The Ministry of Finance has prepared valid job descriptions adopted by all ministries. Some have updated their job descriptions to meet the changes in the nature of their activities, pursuant to the Committee's recommendation based on the external auditor's observations, and will be approved upon the formation of a Government.

The committee charged with the selection of the president and members of the management board of the Federal Service Board continues to interview and select from among those who meet the requirements to occupy the aforementioned jobs. There are 29 qualified candidates so far.

As my colleague noted earlier, PricewaterhouseCoopers presented its assessment of the oil-metering system and briefed the International Advisory and Monitoring Board (IAMB) in its meeting in Amman on 14 and 15 October. According to the data presented, good progress was made in general in the installation and calibration of meters in export ports,

while a negative deviation appeared in the internal distribution network. The Committee and the Ministry of Oil are following up the implementation of the plan on a monthly basis, and hope that it will be finalized by the end of 2011, with the exception of the work of the newly established Maisan Oil Company, which will complete installation by late 2012, at which time a briefing on developments and achievements will be given by the IAMB.

Regarding Iraqi funds abroad, the Ministry of Finance has tried to establish a data base of these funds, as it stated in its letter to the Committee of Financial Experts dated 18 October, which included itemizations to a total of €83 million, $118 million, £280,000, ¥664,000, 180 million Swiss francs and 238 million Jordanian dinars, in addition to the requests for their transfer to the DFI pursuant to the relevant resolutions of the Security Council. The final financial statements of the State for 2008 were completed and referred to the Council of Ministers, which in turn was to refer them to the Council of Representatives. The Board of Supreme Audit continues to audit the financial statement for 2009 while it waits to receive the data in its final form before issuing it.

Through ongoing meetings and contacts between the Committee, heads of the audit teams of the Board of Supreme Audit in the concerned ministries, and representatives of those State entities, numerous audit observations were made in external auditors' reports for 2007 and 2008. The observations stated in KPMG's draft report for 2009 were discussed in detail with KPMG's representatives at the latest IAMB meeting in Amman on 14 and 15 October. The IAMB was briefed in the same meeting on the report by PricewaterhouseCoopers on the interim review report on DFI cash flows and payment for the first six months of 2010.

I apologize for the length of my statement, but I have tried to present to the Council all the efforts made by the Government of Iraq to find an acceptable successor arrangement to deal with Iraq's public funds and to serve the interests of the people of Iraq, as provided for in resolution 1483 (2003) and other relevant resolutions.

The President: In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, I would now like to invite Council members to continue our discussion on the subject in a private meeting.

The meeting rose at 11.10 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.6419

Security Council

Distr.: General
10 November 2010

Original: English

Official communiqué of the 6419th (closed) meeting of the Security Council

Held in private at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 10 November 2010, at 11 a.m.

In accordance with rule 55 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, the following communiqué was issued through the Secretary-General in place of a verbatim record:

"At its 6419th meeting, held in private on 10 November 2010, the Security Council considered the item entitled 'The situation concerning Iraq'.

"Pursuant to the decision taken at the 6418th meeting, the President recognized the presence of Mr. Abdul Basit Turky Saed, Head of the Committee of Financial Experts of Iraq, at the Council table, in accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

"The President, with the consent of the Council, invited the representatives of Australia, Bahrain, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Malaysia, the Netherlands, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, the Syrian Arab Republic and Qatar, at their request, to participate in the consideration without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

"Pursuant to the decision taken at the 6418th meeting, the President recognized the presence at the Council table of Mr. Jun Yamazaki, Controller of the United Nations, in accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

"The members of the Council, Mr. Yamazaki and Mr. Turky Saed had an exchange of views."

Please recycle

United Nations S/PV.6420

Security Council

Distr.: General
11 November 2010

Original: English

Official communiqué of the 6420th (closed) meeting of the Security Council

Held in private at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 11 November 2010, at 11.30 a.m.

In accordance with rule 55 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, the following communiqué was issued through the Secretary-General in place of a verbatim record:

"On 11 November 2010, the Security Council, pursuant to resolution 1353 (2001), annex II, sections A and B, held its 6420th meeting in private with the troop- and police-contributing countries to the United Nations Mission in the Sudan.

"The Security Council and the troop- and police- contributing countries heard briefings under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure by Mr. Haile Menkerios, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Mission in the Sudan, and Major General Moses Obi, Force Commander of the United Nations Mission in the Sudan, via video teleconference.

"Members of the Council, Mr. Menkerios, Major General Obi and representatives of participating troop- and police-contributing countries had an exchange of views."

10-63399 (E) 111110

Please recycle

United Nations S/PV.6421

Security Council

Sixty-fifth year

Provisional

6421st meeting

Thursday, 11 November 2010, 3 p.m.

New York

President:	Sir Mark Lyall Grant	(United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)
Members:	Austria	Mr. Mayr-Harting
	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Mr. Radmanović
	Brazil	Mrs. Viotti
	China	Mr. Li Baodong
	France	Mr. Briens
	Gabon	Mr. Issoze-Ngondet
	Japan	Mr. Sumi
	Lebanon	Mr. Assaf
	Mexico	Mr. Heller
	Nigeria	Mr. Onemola
	Russian Federation	Mr. Churkin
	Turkey	Mr. Apakan
	Uganda	Mr. Rugunda
	United States of America	Mrs. DiCarlo

Agenda

The situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Letter dated 8 November 2010 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2010/575)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-506.

10-63264 (E)

Please recycle

The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Letter dated 8 November 2010 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2010/575)

The President: At the outset, I should like to acknowledge the presence of His Excellency Mr. Nebojša Radmanović, Chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina. On behalf of the Security Council, I extend a warm welcome to Mr. Radmanović.

I should like to inform the Council that I have received letters from the representatives of Croatia and Serbia, in which they request to be invited to participate in the consideration of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite those representatives to participate in the consideration of the item, without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Vilović (Croatia) and Mr. Starčević (Serbia) took the seats reserved for them at the side of the Council Chamber.

The President: In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, I shall take it that the Security Council agrees to extend an invitation under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure to His Excellency Mr. Valentin Inzko, High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina.

It is so decided.

I invite Mr. Inzko to take a seat at the Council table.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

I should like to draw the attention of members of the Council to document S/2010/575, which contains a letter dated 8 November 2010 from the Secretary-General transmitting the thirty-eighth report of the High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina.

At this meeting, the Security Council will hear a briefing by His Excellency Mr. Valentin Inzko. I now give him the floor.

Mr. Inzko: I thank the Council for giving me the opportunity today to present my fourth report as High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina and the thirty-eighth report altogether. I hope that my presentation will provide a better understanding of the overall situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, where we stand now and what challenges we will face in the period ahead.

It is now exactly 15 years since the Peace Agreement ending the hostilities in Bosnia and Herzegovina was concluded in Dayton. Since that day, there has been significant progress in the country and Bosnia and Herzegovina's membership of and successful work in the Security Council is just one example of the many improvements that we have seen in the past 15 years.

In that respect, it is a great pleasure to have President Radmanović here, representing Bosnia and Herzegovina in this forum. Let me also take this opportunity to congratulate Mr. Radmanović on his re-election to the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina and on assuming the Chairmanship of the Presidency yesterday.

Let me also congratulate every citizen in Bosnia and Herzegovina on the European Union (EU) decision earlier this week to allow visa-free travel for all Bosnians to all the Schengen countries of the European Union. That is a very significant decision, which shows the EU's commitment to Bosnia and Herzegovina's European future. But it also demonstrates that Bosnia and Herzegovina's political leaders can address difficult reform if they muster the necessary political will.

Moreover, the regional situation in the Western Balkans has continued to develop positively. In the summer, the Croatian and Serbian Presidents made ground-breaking visits to Bosnia and Herzegovina that underlined the need for reconciliation and regional cooperation. As recently as last week, Serbian

President Tadić apologized for Serbia's role in the 1991 Vukovar massacre. In a similar fashion, the new Bosniak member of the Bosnia and Herzegovina Presidency, Bakir Izetbegović, offered his own apology to Serbia for the crimes committed against innocent civilians by the Bosnian army during the war. Those are positive acts and gestures of reconciliation, which have had a positive impact in the region and in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

However, despite the improved atmosphere in the region, the political situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina remains complex. Today, 15 years after the signing of the Dayton Agreement, there is still insufficient dialogue and compromise. Sadly, nationalist agendas inside the country have continued to prevail over cooperation and compromise. The European Commission's progress report published just two days ago accordingly confirmed that Bosnia and Herzegovina is not living up to its potential and that in the past year the country has only made limited progress in addressing the conditions for European integration. Basically, there has been no progress on key reforms required for Euro-Atlantic integration in the past year.

Unfortunately, the developments of the past year are symptomatic of the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina during the past four years. Whereas there was substantial progress in the first 11 years after the war, in the past four years there has been stagnation and time has been largely wasted. The fundamentals of the country and its institutions, including their constitutional framework, have been challenged on a regular basis. Let me give the Council some concrete examples.

First, there has been a fundamental change in the rhetoric and verbal attacks against the State. Leading politicians from Republika Srpska have frequently referred to the future independence of their entity while claiming that Bosnia and Herzegovina is an "impossible country", and therefore not sustainable. The same leaders have also repeatedly denied rulings by two international United Nations courts, the International Court of Justice and the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, that genocide took place in Srebrenica, thus further increasing tensions. I want to underline that, despite that rhetoric, the Federation-based parties have stopped challenging the existence of Republika Srpska almost entirely. However, the leading Bosnian Croat party, the Croatian Democratic Union of Bosnia and Herzegovina, has called for a separate Croat entity. That may not be realistic, but it is nevertheless unnecessarily increasing the tensions in the country.

Secondly, the State-level institutions have not worked to their full potential during the past four years, due mainly to political obstruction. In comparison with the previous State-level Parliament, in the period 2002 to 2006, the outgoing Parliament has adopted one third less legislation.

Thirdly, there has also been a marked increase in unilateral actions, with the entities adopting and implementing legislation with little regard for the State and/or the other entity. Republika Srpska in particular has adopted a number of laws that challenge European partnership priorities or that aim to dismantle State-level reforms. There have also been similar, but less frequent, developments in the Federation.

The problems to which I have referred have lead to a political stalemate and clear stagnation during the past four years. As a result, as confirmed by the European Commission's progress report, there has been only limited progress in addressing EU-related reforms. To name just two, in the past year State-level authorities have failed to address the December 2009 ruling of the European Court of Human Rights with regard to discrimination against some citizens in Bosnia and Herzegovina who are prevented from fully participating in public affairs and receiving appointments to certain State-level institutions.

Similarly, a State-level census law has not been adopted, as the political parties could not agree on the future implementation of the census results. It will now be up to the new legislature to deal with this issue. But it is unlikely that Bosnia and Herzegovina will be able to hold a State-level census in 2011 together with the other countries in the region and in the world.

Equally, there has been very little progress in implementing the objectives and conditions for the transition or the closure of the Office of the High Representative that have been determined by the Peace Implementation Council.

On the State property objective, there has actually been regression, as the Republika Srpska National Assembly adopted its own law on State property, which — if it enters into force — would register all State property in that entity to Republika Srpska. If the

law is formally enacted, it will make a comprehensive negotiated solution on State property impossible. Consequently, that would make the closure of the Office of the High Representative substantially more difficult.

Furthermore, similar to the situation with State property, there has been no progress in addressing the defence property objective since my last report. As a result, Bosnia and Herzegovina's progress towards NATO has stalled, as it has not been able to meet the conditions for implementing NATO's membership action plan. Equally, Republika Srpska authorities continue to fail to meet the outstanding requirement for the termination of the supervision of Brcko.

Due to the lack of progress, the Peace Implementation Council has not been able to decide about the closure of the Office of the High Representative, as already foreseen in 2006. The Peace Implementation Council will meet again later this month to consider the situation. In essence, however, the decision about the closure or transition of my Office depends on the readiness of Bosnian political leaders to meet the objectives and conditions that have been set.

Despite the increasingly difficult situation on the ground and despite the lack of progress in addressing the conditions for the closure of my Office, in July 2010 I unilaterally reduced my staff by over 20 per cent. When I arrived in Bosnia and Herzegovina last year, my Office still had 220 employees; now it has 160. Of course, many years ago, my Office had 800 employees. I also handed over the responsibility to vet certain appointed entity and cantonal officials to the respective local authorities, in a spirit of transition and more local ownership.

It was in that overall atmosphere that I have described that general elections were held last month. The international media portrayed those elections as a watershed event in the future of the country that will determine whether it will move forward towards Euro-Atlantic integration or backwards towards disintegration owing to increasing calls for secession coming from the smaller entity.

The Bosnian election authorities conducted those elections efficiently. International election-observation missions concluded that the elections were generally held in accordance with international standards. The turnout for the general elections was around 57 per cent, which is the highest turnout in any election since 2002. At the same time, if we compare this election with the elections in 2006, there was an 18 per cent increase in the number of voters. This is good news that shows citizens increasingly care about the future of their country.

At the same time, the elections were held on the basis of the current election law, which is not in line with the European Convention for Human Rights. This does not affect the legitimacy of the elections, but this problem must be addressed urgently after the formation of the new Government.

Let me underline that Bosnia and Herzegovina, in order to become fully sustainable and to move forward towards Euro-Atlantic integration, will need political leaders that are ready to change the way they conduct politics. Zero-sum politics will need to be replaced by politics based on compromise and a readiness to meet each other half way. I cannot overemphasize this point. This is fundamental for a stable and forward-looking country. In this regard, the responsibility for what happens in the next four years is firmly in the hands of the incoming authorities. They have a choice to make and, when they make it, they must take responsibility for what follows.

The choice facing Bosnia and Herzegovina is not whether it survives as a State or whether it is divided. It will definitively continue to exist. The partition of the country or secession are not solutions. If it were possible to partition Bosnia and Herzegovina peacefully, it would have happened in 1992. It was, however, not possible then and it is not possible today. The partition of the country would also be a triumph for the Milošević-led policy of the past. Instead, the choice facing Bosnia and Herzegovina is whether it chooses to reintegrate and reform, and in so doing join the EU and NATO, or whether it chooses stagnation and isolation.

In light of the situation I have described, there is still a need for the international community to remain fully focused on Bosnia and Herzegovina. We must continue to accompany the authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina on the Euro-Atlantic path, and the international community must make it clear to the incoming Governments what we expect from them in the period ahead. As a first step to recreating the momentum, we must urge politicians to form Governments at all levels that are focused on the

Euro-Atlantic agenda. However, Government formation — especially at the State-level — may take a long time, especially since some politicians have made clear their desire to roll back previously agreed reforms and to devolve a number of competencies from the State to the entities.

Furthermore, we must insist very vocally that Bosnia and Herzegovina's territorial integrity and constitutional framework be preserved. Unfortunately, this emphasis is still necessary. We must make clear that only Bosnia and Herzegovina as one country has a future in the EU and NATO and that rhetoric about Bosnia and Herzegovina being an impossible State must stop.

Beyond those basic issues, we need Bosnia and Herzegovina to progress with urgency towards both the European Union and NATO. This is in Bosnia and Herzegovina's interest as well as in the international community's interest. In this regard, we should strongly encourage Bosnia and Herzegovina to address the main problems identified in the European Commission's progress report, such as the European Court of Human Rights ruling, the census law and other key European partnership priorities. We should encourage Bosnia and Herzegovina to address the five objectives and two conditions that have been set for the transition and closure of the Office of the High Representative. Finally, we should encourage Bosnia and Herzegovina to start a step-by-step process of constitutional changes in order to make a country that is self-sustainable and efficient in dealing with the challenges of Euro-Atlantic integration. We are speaking here not of the centralization of a State or the strengthening of centralized institutions; we are speaking here of strengthening the efficiency of State institutions.

In 10 days, we will mark the fifteenth anniversary of the Dayton Peace Agreement. In this context, we need to ensure that we do not leave the job in Bosnia and Herzegovina unfinished. As I have argued before, the presence of the European Union Force in Bosnia and Herzegovina (EUFOR) with an executive mandate is still important. I must underline that it is important that sufficient troops be left on the ground to provide adequate levels of reassurance to the citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina. In this respect, I strongly recommend the renewal of the Security Council resolution on EUFOR next week.

Our continued attention on Bosnia and Herzegovina is the way to get to the objective that we all want to reach, where Bosnia and Herzegovina can move towards full Euro-Atlantic integration under its own steam — and that means with full ownership and the full responsibilities that go along with it. I am truly convinced that this possibility can become a reality, and I will, as High Representative and also as the Special Representative of the EU, continue to dedicate all my efforts to assisting and supporting Bosnia and Herzegovina's efforts in this direction. I also count on the continued support of the Council in this regard.

The President: I thank Mr. Inzko for his briefing.

I shall now give the floor to members of the Security Council.

Mr. Radmanović (*spoke in Bosnian; English interpretation provided by the delegation*): It is an honour to address the Security Council in the debate on Bosnia and Herzegovina. Today's debate will facilitate a better understanding of the political situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the progress the country has achieved in this last period.

Since the last report of the Secretary-General was issued (see S/2010/235), many things have occurred in Bosnia and Herzegovina that have changed the situation in the country. There are many different opinions and analyses among the political actors and citizens regarding the progress achieved in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Until now, the Presidency has not had a unified position on this issue. Allow me, as the Chairman of the Presidency, to present the view agreed upon with the other two members of the Presidency on the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, along with possible future developments.

Today, it is popular to talk about Bosnia and Herzegovina predominantly in gloomy terms, as was recently done in this Chamber. Bosnia and Herzegovina is the ideal arena in which to test various catastrophe theories. Unlike other, similar regions of the world in which the international community is engaged, Bosnia and Herzegovina on the whole represents a positive example of the peacebuilding efforts of the international community. This is confirmed by numerous reports of relevant international organizations, independent institutions and non-governmental organizations. To be honest, Bosnia and Herzegovina did experience a slight delay in its reform and transition process in the past six

months. One reason is that this was an election year in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and that the political entities were focused more on the election campaign and attracting voters than on the real problems of the country.

This year we mark the fifteenth anniversary of the signing the Dayton Peace Agreement for Bosnia and Herzegovina. Fifteen years ago, Bosnia and Herzegovina emerged from a tragic conflict that had destabilized the country and the entire region. Today, 15 years later, we wonder what and how much we have achieved of all that was signed and agreed. Let me say this: With the combined efforts of the international community and local authorities, Bosnia and Herzegovina has made significant progress in the post-war period, which is a positive example compared to many similar critical areas in the world. It would be difficult to find an example of a peace agreement in modern European or world history that was more rapidly and successfully implemented. Those who are dissatisfied with the pace of progress in Bosnia and Herzegovina are seeking a remedy by challenging the very foundations of the existing Peace Agreement, which will only lead us to new conflicts and disputes.

Since the end of the war, Bosnia and Herzegovina has implemented all key elements of the Dayton Peace Agreement. A stable peace has been established; the country has been functioning according to the constitutional grounds set out in the Dayton Peace Agreement; most refugees and displaced persons have recuperated their property and many have returned to their homes.

Consequently, Bosnia and Herzegovina is a success story compared to other territories in the region. Six general parliamentary elections have been held, the last few of which were completely organized by local authorities. Domestically, a single economic space has emerged. The macroeconomic indicators of the economy are stable, showing a slow but positive upward trend. A value-added tax has been successfully introduced. Reforms of the defence sector and the armed forces have been successfully implemented. Following the initial arrests of indicted war criminals by international military forces, most of the others have been arrested and extradited to the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia in The Hague by the local authorities. War crimes trials have been processed in the national courts.

Bosnia and Herzegovina has become a member of the Council of Europe and other international organizations, the country joined the NATO Partnership for Peace and became a member of the European Free Trade Association, leading to its signing a Stabilization and Association Agreement with the European Union (EU). The country has fulfilled 174 requirements for a visa-free regime with the EU and a positive decision has already been made. Reforms are ongoing in public administration, justice, higher education, the public broadcasting system and the harmonization of the Constitution with the European Convention on Human Rights and the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg.

I recall that, as a result of the favourable development of the political and security situation in Bosnia, NATO has reduced its troops in Bosnia and Herzegovina and its presence to the headquarters in Sarajevo. The European Union Force has also reduced its forces in Bosnia and Herzegovina as a result of the apparent progress in achieving a secure and stable environment.

There are differing views in Bosnia and Herzegovina regarding the role and future status of the Office of the High Representative. The political representatives of one people are of the opinion that the Office of the High Representative should permanently remain in Bosnia and Herzegovina, but the representatives of the others believe that its closure is necessary and that its functions should be transferred to the EU Special Representative. While there may have been reasons after the war for the Office of the High Representative to exist, 15 years later they have been significantly reduced.

The latest report of the European Commission on Bosnia stated that Bosnia and Herzegovina cannot take further steps in the process of European integration until the transition of the Office of the High Representative to the Special Representative of the European Union is complete.

All the changes in Bosnia and Herzegovina must be based on the rule of law. The full implementation of the Dayton Peace Agreement is therefore imperative. The Dayton accord is primarily an agreement, not a framework from which one can pick and choose only that which is agreeable while shirking one's other obligations. In regard to the decisions of the Office of the High Representative amending annex 4 of the

Accord, it is clear that legal agreements should be changed only in respect to the way they were adopted, if not otherwise agreed on. Discussions on these issues will therefore continue.

The problem of building a functional State cannot be solved merely by changing the constitutional and legal procedures for promulgating decisions in Bosnia and Herzegovina, aimed at greater or lesser centralization or decentralization. This is a simplistic and dangerous solution to the country's complex and sensitive political problems. In a complex and multi-ethnic country like Bosnia and Herzegovina, such an approach would bring the Government's legitimacy into question and disturb a region that is still not fully stable.

National reconciliation and trust are basic prerequisites for building a functional State, and that cannot be achieved without prosecuting all war criminals of all nations in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Hague Tribunal has recognized Bosnia and Herzegovina's cooperation in this matter, rendering any other comments on it unnecessary.

There has been a lack of understanding of the problem of the return of refugees on the part of local politicians in Bosnia and Herzegovina and, partly, of the international community. In reality, no country in the world has done more for the return of refugees than Bosnia and Herzegovina. Sustainable returns of refugees remain a challenge, and in this area Bosnia and Herzegovina needs the support of the international community. In addition, the international community needs to deal with the fact that within 500 kilometres of the Western Balkans — encompassing Croatia, Serbia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina — legal standards on the right to return vary, resulting in further injustice for the refugee population.

Every country in the Western Balkans is currently progressing towards the status required for admission to the European Union, and while Bosnia and Herzegovina may lag behind its neighbours, it is not as far behind as some contend.

All of these are reasons for encouraging Bosnia and Herzegovina on its journey towards membership of the European Union, to which it rightfully belongs; towards the rapid transition of the Office of the High Representative; and towards enabling Bosnia and Herzegovina's leaders to negotiate and act in accordance with their agreements without external pressure. Agreement, understanding, equality and tolerance are the essence of all reforms in Bosnia and Herzegovina and should be encouraged, commended and approved.

Mr. Heller (Mexico) (*spoke in Spanish*): At the outset, I would like to welcome Mr. Nebojša Radmanović, Chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina. I would also like to welcome Mr. Valentin Inzko, High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina and Special Representative of the European Union for Bosnia and Herzegovina, and to thank him for his report (see S/2010/575, annex).

Mexico commends Bosnia and Herzegovina's active participation as an elected member of the Security Council, demonstrating the progress that this country has made in recent years in a context that is not without its difficulties. Its progress in moving strategically closer to the European Union and in developing more flexible relations with its neighbours in a more cooperative atmosphere is an important step forward in consolidating Bosnia and Herzegovina's role on the international stage and in promoting regional stability.

My delegation believes that, in order to consolidate lasting peace and stability in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the main political forces of the country must step up their dialogue and reach an understanding among themselves. We therefore welcome the fair and orderly holding of the general elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina on 3 October. We are convinced that this is the path that must be taken.

We regret, however, the divisive rhetoric employed by one of the parties, which does not contribute to the creation of a political climate conducive to the process of internal integration, peacebuilding and reconciliation. Nor is it a promising sign for these efforts that there are those who seek to challenge the work and the authority of the High Representative and Special Representative of the European Union. The political actors involved must promote negotiation and conciliation as the only way to overcome differences constructively and to avoid confrontations that may endanger the country's stability and constitutional framework. There is no doubt that a Government of unity is the way to achieve national reconstruction and eventual integration into Euro-Atlantic institutions.

I would like to stress the importance of the international community's ongoing support for the efforts of the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina to strengthen the rule of law. That is why we support the High Representative's recommendation that the presence of the European Union force in Bosnia and Herzegovina be maintained in 2011, given its relevant role in continuing to provide peace and security to the population through the support of the Office of the High Representative.

We believe that respect for and the strengthening of national justice institutions are fundamental elements of the fight against the impunity of those responsible for serious crimes committed in the past, and in order to promote national reconciliation and the rule of law. We welcome the adoption of the revised strategy for the implementation of annex 7 of the Dayton Peace Agreement, concerning the return of displaced persons and refugees. We are confident that this step will make an important contribution to the voluntary and sustainable return of the 113,000 people who remain internally displaced, more than 7,000 of whom are living in conditions of poverty.

We reiterate our call on the political leaders of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the countries of the region to cooperate with the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, in order to allow it to effectively fulfil its mandate, particularly by contributing information to the open cases of war crimes and crimes against humanity that the Tribunal is currently investigating, with a view to serving justice and contributing to post-conflict reconciliation and stabilization efforts in the region.

In conclusion, we reiterate Mexico's support for the work of the High Representative, and we hope that Bosnia and Herzegovina will be able to overcome its differences once and for all and consolidate a democratic, multi-ethnic State in which its citizens, like all those of the Balkans region, will be able to enjoy a more stable and prosperous future as an integral part of Europe.

Mr. Churkin (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): We welcome the participation in today's meeting of the Chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mr. Radmanović. We listened attentively to his assessment of the situation in that country. We are grateful to the High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mr. Inzko, for presenting the report on developments in Bosnia and Herzegovina (see S/2010/575, annex).

As we see it, the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina remains complex, although we do not wish to overdramatize it. The general elections, a very important milestone for the country, were held in a calm and peaceful manner. There are no direct threats to the Dayton Peace Agreement. The viability of Bosnia and Herzegovina as a State is reaffirmed by its election as a non-permanent member of the Security Council and by the successful work of its delegation in this principal organ of the United Nations.

In these circumstances, the further continuation of the Office of the High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina, which enjoys extraordinary Bonn powers, no longer has meaning and has become counterproductive. Any unilateral step taken by the High Representative will only exacerbate the situation and provoke a response from the Bosnian sides.

The Bosnians' successful holding of elections in accordance with international standards, as confirmed by international observers, attests to the maturity of Bosnian statehood and the ability of its citizens to take decisions about the future of their country without external guardianship. The international community should work constructively with those leaders who were elected by the citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina, including the Republika Srpska.

In our view, the main task of the international community in the post-election period is to transfer full responsibility for the future of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the Bosnians themselves. In practical terms, this means ensuring conditions conducive to transforming the Office of the High Representative into a mission of the European Union Special Representative. In the framework of the Steering Board of the Peace Implementation Council, we agreed on a road map to that end — the 5+2 formula. Following the formation of the structures of power in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the entities, it is now necessary that we return to that task.

It is unacceptable to link the 5+2 formula to the achievement of objectives in the framework of the so-called Euro-Atlantic agenda for Bosnia and Herzegovina. The High Representative spoke at great length — perhaps too great a length — of that today. It is especially unacceptable to link it to the achievement of constitutional reform, which would run counter to

the programme, collectively agreed upon by the Steering Board of the Peace Implementation Council, for closing the Office of the High Representative.

The lessons learned from the Butmir initiative demonstrate that the imposition from the outside of ready-made blueprints can only complicate dialogue among Bosnians and lead to an unjustified encouragement of one side. We believe that, with respect to an issue so fundamental to the future of Bosnia and Herzegovina, it will be possible to identify any corrective adjustment only with the consent of all three constituent peoples, as stipulated in the Dayton Peace Agreement.

We agree with the view that it would be advisable to begin without delay implementing the recommendations set forth in December 2009 by the European Court of Human Rights. They can and must be implemented on the basis of compromise among the Bosnian sides. We cannot endorse an expansive interpretation of the opinion of the European Court of Human Rights or attempts on that pretext to achieve a fundamental revision of the entire Dayton construction. Any step towards constitutional reform should be strictly within the Dayton legal framework.

Mr. Assaf (Lebanon) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, I wish to thank His Excellency Mr. Radmanović for his statement. We also thank the High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mr. Valentin Inzko, for his comprehensive briefing. We commend his efforts to promote the political process under the Dayton Peace Agreement.

We support the efforts of Bosnia and Herzegovina to complete the implementation of the Dayton accord and to achieve the goals of the Steering Board of the Peace Implementation Council, which will ultimately lead to the closure of the Office of the High Representative. We welcome the progress achieved by Bosnia and Herzegovina on several issues, in particular the stabilization of the security situation, the holding of free and fair elections in October, and the fulfilment of the European Union conditions concerning visa liberalization.

However, several daunting challenges remain. The pre-election circumstances overshadowed the situation and led to the interruption of important reforms. We regret the rhetoric used to attack the Dayton Peace Agreement and the sovereignty, legislation and competencies of the State in the course of the election. We therefore urge all parties concerned to reach a timely understanding on the formation of a progressive Government and to engage in open dialogue to achieve reconciliation and embark on the path of reform that will ensure real progress for all citizens, irrespective of their ethnicity.

It is imperative to create an environment conducive to achieving progress on many issues, particularly constitutional and economic reform, the resolution of issues concerning State property, particularly defence property, and the filling of key public positions. The sustainable return of refugees is vital to achieving lasting peace. We support the role of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia in establishing justice in the region in order to avoid the recurrence of past tragedies.

We believe that the international community should continue to support Bosnia and Herzegovina in its efforts to overcome its political difficulties and to strike a balance between centralization and decentralization. Fifteen years after the Dayton Peace Agreement, we cherish the hope that Bosnia and Herzegovina will make firm strides towards the prosperity and stability to which all its citizens aspire.

Mr. Li Baodong (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): This year marks the fifteenth anniversary of the Dayton Peace Agreement. The current situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina is generally calm. We welcome the smooth holding of the general elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina in October and the progress made in security sector reform and the rule of law, as well as the steady economic improvements.

We also note, however, that Bosnia and Herzegovina continues to face complex situations and difficulties on its path towards stability and development. China respects the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Bosnia and Herzegovina and all its ethnic communities in their independent choice of paths to development. The future of Bosnia and Herzegovina is in the hands of its peoples. The international community should respect their ownership and leadership.

We hope that all the ethnic communities of Bosnia and Herzegovina will focus their attention on the long-term interests of their State, effectively implement the Dayton Peace Agreement, actively pursue dialogue, enhance political trust, and promote national reconciliation. We look forward to the timely

formation of the new Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the completion of constitutional reform, economic recovery, the establishment of the rule of law and social development.

The maintenance of lasting peace and stability in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Balkans is in the interests of all parties, and sustained dialogue and cooperation are the fundamental means to that end. We support the efforts of the international community to facilitate high-level political dialogue among the various actors in Bosnia and Herzegovina. We are pleased to note that the High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina, pursuant to his mandate under the Dayton Peace Agreement, has pursued his contacts with all political parties with a view to promoting unity and cooperation among all the communities of that country.

China welcomes the positive role played by the European Union in the framework of the Dayton Peace Agreement and supports the work of the Special Representative and the European Union Force in Bosnia and Herzegovina (EUFOR). We hope that EUFOR will increase its support for the capacity-building of the Bosnia and Herzegovina armed forces so that the country will be able to assume responsibility for maintaining its own State sovereignty, security and stability as soon as possible.

We welcome the help provided by the International Monetary Fund to Bosnia and Herzegovina to help maintain the country's financial and economic stability. China is ready to work together with the international community in continuing to provide Bosnia and Herzegovina with support to ensure lasting peace, stability and development.

Mr. Apakan (Turkey): Let me begin by extending a warm welcome to President Radmanović and thanking him for his statement. I would also like to congratulate him, as well as Mr. Izetbegović and Mr. Komšić, for their elections as members of the Council of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina and for the successful conduct of the elections.

We are also pleased to see High Representative Inzko among us again. I want to thank him for his tireless efforts and leadership and for his comprehensive report (see S/2010/575, annex) and the insightful briefing he provided today.

In a few days, we will celebrate the fifteenth anniversary of the signing of the Dayton of Peace Agreement on Bosnia and Herzegovina. These 15 years have certainly not been easy. But, despite the difficulties, there have been significant positive developments. We can definitely say that Bosnia and Herzegovina has proved itself to be viable as a State. As such, the presence of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the Security Council is a clear sign of the confidence that the international community has in the country.

In the same vein, we are pleased that the elections held on 3 October were successfully carried out and that they were characterized by international observers as being generally in accordance with international standards. We welcome the maturity displayed by all components of the country and we hope that a broad-based Government will be formed soon to tackle the many issues that lie ahead.

As a Balkan country itself, Turkey attaches great importance to achieving lasting peace and stability in the region. We consider a sovereign, democratic, stable and functional State of Bosnia and Herzegovina, with its internationally recognized borders, as an indispensable prerequisite for achieving that objective. That is why, in addition to our excellent bilateral relations, as illustrated by the recent visits of our President and Minister for Foreign Affairs, as underlined once again in the report of the High Representative, Turkey continues to make every effort to assist Bosnia and Herzegovina in its endeavours to promote regional cooperation. Indeed, regional ownership and inclusiveness should be a key element in our quest for peace and stability in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In this context, the Turkish initiative to hold high-level trilateral meetings between Turkey, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia, as well as between Turkey, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia, has surely contributed to the enhancement of regional understanding and collaboration. In that regard, we welcome the recent improvement in relations among the regional partners. The visit of the President of Serbia to Srebrenica, the decision of the Serbian Parliament on Srebrenica, the declaration by Mr. Izetbegović on crimes committed during the war and a similar declaration by President Tadić on Vukovar are positive steps towards regional reconciliation. We encourage these acts and gestures, which will promote regional cooperation and

contribute to improving the daily lives of the peoples of the region.

In the same vein, we welcome the decision of the European Union to liberalize the visa regime applied to the citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina. We believe that this decision is yet another step that serves to keep alive Bosnia and Herzegovina's European perspective. Furthermore, Turkey supports and appreciates the efforts of the European Union to assist Bosnia and Herzegovina to take its rightful place in the European family of nations, including by providing stability through its Police Mission and Operation Althea.

As an active contributor to both of these missions, Turkey supports the extension of the executive mandate of the European Union-led peacekeeping force and remains ready to continue with its contributions. We believe that the future of the region is closely tied to that of Europe as a whole. We firmly support Bosnia and Herzegovina's aspirations to fully integrate into Euro-Atlantic institutions. We hope that those institutions will also embrace Bosnia and Herzegovina. We also hope that the internal difficulties impeding Bosnia and Herzegovina's effective cooperation with NATO will soon be resolved.

Having mentioned the internal difficulties, we cannot help but share the concerns of Mr. Inzko regarding several aspects of the domestic situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, in particular with respect to the continued anti-Dayton rhetoric and actions that challenge the sovereignty and constitutional order of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The lack of progress in the reforms necessary for the integration of the country into Euro-Atlantic institutions is a direct consequence of the divisions and negative stances in the internal political situation. I should say that this trend stands in clear contradiction to the improved regional atmosphere, and is thus all the more unnecessary and counterproductive. Unilateral actions not only complicate the functioning of the State, they also have adverse consequences for those who promote them, as they further delay the closure of the Office of the High Representative.

At this point, let me also underline that we firmly support the High Representative in using the powers granted to him to lead Bosnia and Herzegovina to a better future. As such, the challenges to the authority of the international community and that of the Steering Board of the Peace Implementation Council are unacceptable.

Let me conclude by once saying that the past 15 years have clearly shown that Bosnia and Herzegovina is moving in the right direction. We support Bosnia and Herzegovina. It is up to Bosnians to make their country prosper and to undertake the necessary reforms to bring about a more viable State. As such, we want to see all parties embrace a common vision and act accordingly, rather than pursue narrow ethnic interests. We therefore support the democratic forces in the country and remain hopeful that the democratic ideals and aspirations of the peoples of Bosnia and Herzegovina will eventually overcome the divisive tendencies.

On the other hand, we believe that the integration of Bosnia and Herzegovina into Euro-Atlantic structures will eliminate any feelings of exclusion, instil confidence in the peoples of Bosnia and Herzegovina and ensure its future as a strong, stable, secure and whole European country. Turkey is fully committed to this objective. We will do everything possible to assist the peoples of Bosnia and Herzegovina, without any distinction among them, to achieve their rightful place in the international community.

Mr. Briens (France) (*spoke in French*): I would first like to thank the High Representative for the briefing that he has just given us and to assure him of the support of France. I would also like to welcome Mr. Radmanović, Chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

A few days ago, the 27 Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the European Union decided to lift the short-stay visa obligation for citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina. That is significant progress — first of all, for the citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina, who will now be able to travel more easily within Europe. But this also means progress for political leaders, who can see with this decision of the European Union the specific results of their efforts. This decision also shows to what extent the unity of the leaders of Bosnia and Herzegovina in working towards a shared objective can produce results. The European Union long ago specified the conditions that needed to be met and, indeed, once those conditions were met, the Union honoured its commitments.

However, we regret that progress expected in other areas has not been forthcoming. Thus, absent an agreement between the two entities dealing with the issue of the redistribution of defence property, the first annual programme of the plan of action for accession to NATO could not begin last September. Bosnia and Herzegovina will be given a new opportunity to launch that programme next September.

The High Representative has unfortunately referred to several difficulties and internal conflicts in his last report (See S/2010/575), and we can only subscribe to his analyses.

Gone is the time when the international community took decisions in place of the leaders of countries. Let us recall that, 10 years ago in Zagreb, the European Union sought a European perspective for all countries in the region. These prospects gradually took shape in stages, road maps and criteria. One by one, all countries of the region have seized this opportunity and is preparing, each at its own pace, to one day become a full member of the European family. The Sarajevo summit held in June confirmed the European Union's commitment to that process.

At the same time, the European Union is helping to stabilize Bosnia and Herzegovina with the European Union Force Althea. For 10 years, the international community has supported the Bosnian authorities and helped them to build institutions capable of running the country. Objectives and conditions have been laid out to provide for a transition that will allow the Bosnian authorities to decide their own future by themselves. The international community will remain present in the form of a strengthened Special Representative of the European Union who will replace the High Representative.

However, instead of taking advantage of these opportunities, the leaders of the country, in particular those of the Republika Srpska, as noted by Mr. Inzko in his briefing, have been amplifying their criticism of the international community that has steadfastly supported the country for so many years. With legislative elections approaching, recent months saw an increase in public statements around the country that are unacceptable in a country that is a member of this Council and would like to become a member of the European Union and NATO. We urge leaders to form a Government as soon as possible following the elections of 3 October. The electoral campaign should now come to a close and allow the work suspended for this period to continue.

We welcome actions undertaken recently in the region, such as the adoption by the Serbian Parliament last spring of a resolution condemning the Srebrenica massacre, showing that dialogue and reconciliation have their place in the Balkans and that the regional cooperation so dearly sought by the European Union is not in vain.

Once again, we call on the Bosnian leaders to put into practice these initiatives at the national level and finally to harness a positive momentum that would confirm the European perspective of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The future of the country depends on its leaders, particularly those who have just received mandates from their citizens. Today, it is up to them to demonstrate courage and determination in solving their problems.

Mr. Mayr-Harting (Austria): Let me first warmly welcome High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina, Valentin Inzko, and thank him for the report (see S/2010/575, annex) and his work. We fully share his assessment of recent developments and the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. We would like to reaffirm our full and continued support for him and his office, as well as for his efforts to implement the Dayton Peace Agreement and to engage Bosnia and Herzegovina in its reforms towards joining the European Union.

At the same time, let me warmly welcome Mr. Nebojša Radmanović, the new Chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina. We thank him for his statement and for the special emphasis he has placed on the European aspirations of his country — aspirations that are shared by all the inhabitants of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Let me add on a more personal note that it is has been and is good to sit next to Bosnia and Herzegovina at this table as a neighbour, just as we are neighbours in Europe. Every Austrian knows that if one takes a ruler and places it on the map, the distance between Vienna and Sarajevo is shorter than the distance between Vienna and the western border of Austria.

Against this background, we also congratulate the institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina on the recent fulfilment of the requirements for visa liberalization, which was confirmed by the Council of the European

Union on Monday. Austria very much welcomes this opportunity for the citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina as an important step forward that will bring the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the European Union closer together. More frequent and flexible visits will also lead to the intensification of business contacts. This decision by the Council of the European Union clearly demonstrates that where there is political will, necessary reforms can be implemented effectively. We hope that this spirit of reform will also be taken on by the new Governments of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

At the same time, in line with the assessment of the High Representative and the recent progress report by the European Commission, we regret that Bosnia and Herzegovina has made limited progress in many areas of reform. The Constitution needs to be brought in line with international and European standards, including with rulings of the European Court of Human Rights.

Bosnia and Herzegovina needs to increase the functionality and effectiveness of its State institutions and to continue to cooperate with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, although we have taken note of the overall positive evaluation by Mr. Brammertz in this regard. Failure to implement the conditions on immovable military property has also delayed the implementation of the NATO Membership Action Plan.

As an example of the capability of the institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina, we are encouraged by the professional handling of general elections by the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the assessment that the elections were generally held in line with international standards. At the same time, we hope that the Constitution will be adjusted and that future elections will be open to all citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in line with the European Convention for Human Rights and its Protocol No. 12.

We call on all political parties to end the use of divisive and nationalistic rhetoric. Here, I have to say, we specifically share the concerns expressed by the High Representative. Instead, a functional and effective State-level Government needs to be formed urgently to tackle the many outstanding reform issues. The politicians of Bosnia and Herzegovina will, we hope, work together to make further progress on the country's path towards the European Union and to fulfil the 5+2 criteria set forth by the Steering Board of the Peace Implementation Council for the closure of the Office of the High Representative.

In October, the European Union Foreign Affairs Council again confirmed the readiness of the European Union to continue the European Union Force Althea with an executive military role beyond 2010 under a renewed United Nations mandate, and we look forward to next week's adoption of the resolution extending the authorization. The operation has started to provide non-executive capacity-building and training support, thus contributing to strengthened local ownership and capacity. Austria will continue its commitment as a troop contributor to the operation.

With a mandate extended until the end of 2011, the European Union Police Mission has focused specifically on fighting organized crime and corruption as part of an overall effort to entrench the rule of law in the country. The recent high-level visits by the President of the European Council, Mr. Van Rompuy, and Commissioner Füle underline the unequivocal commitment of the European Union to the European perspective for Bosnia and Herzegovina and the European Union's preparedness to assume the leading role in Bosnia and Herzegovina in the future. Members of the Council know how strongly my own country is committed to these aspirations and goals.

The Treaty of Lisbon has given the European Union more effective policy tools from which Bosnia and Herzegovina will also benefit, for example in the form of a strengthened European Union presence in the country.

Fifteen years after the signature of the Dayton and Paris Peace Agreements, Bosnia and Herzegovina's citizens deserve a qualitative step forward for their country on the path towards European integration. We encourage the political leaders of the country to put Bosnia and Herzegovina firmly on the way towards the European Union and, in doing so, they can count on our support.

Mrs. DiCarlo (United States of America): Let me begin by welcoming His Excellency Mr. Nebojša Radmanović, the Chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and thanking him for his comments. Let me also welcome High Representative Inzko back to the Council and thank him for his comprehensive briefing and service in support of the Dayton Peace Agreement.

Fifteen years ago this month, a Peace Agreement was initialled in Dayton, Ohio, that helped end a terrible war and established a framework for a lasting peace. The United States made a commitment back then to help Bosnia and Herzegovina achieve peace and prosperity. We stand by that commitment today.

We are optimistic that Bosnia and Herzegovina can develop into a strong, stable democracy that respects the interests of all its citizens. The Bosnian people have made enormous strides in the past 15 years. Still, as the High Representative has indicated, much more work needs to be done for the country to fully realize its Euro-Atlantic future.

To move ahead with the closure of the Office of the High Representative, the objectives set by the Peace Implementation Council's Steering Board on State and defence property issues must be met, together with the rest of the 5+2 conditions. The defence property issue also prevents Bosnia and Herzegovina from reaping the benefits of its NATO Membership Action Plan.

Constitutional reforms are also urgently needed to address basic human rights concerns, make Government more responsive to its people, and help meet the requirements for Euro-Atlantic integration. These decisions cannot be imposed from the outside, but the United States will remain engaged and we will help however we can.

Let me make three points in addressing the High Representative's report (see S/2010/575, annex). First, the United States welcomes Bosnia and Herzegovina's recent achievements. International observers consider the 3 October general elections generally free and fair. We look forward to the formation of Governments that can make progress on the pressing reform agenda. We also welcome Bosnia and Herzegovina's progress towards meeting the conditions for European Union (EU) visa liberalization, which will spur economic development and open the door to greater regional integration. The United States further appreciates Bosnia and Herzegovina's assumption of significantly increased responsibilities in the international community, including its service on the Security Council and its important contributions to the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan.

Secondly, we share High Representative Inzko's concerns about what he describes as a deteriorating political climate. Election campaigning is no excuse for provocative and divisive political rhetoric. Leaders need to work together across ethnic and party lines. The United States is concerned about the expressions of public support by some politicians for war criminals indicted or convicted by the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia. We also condemn denials of the Srebrenica genocide, which are simply indefensible. Such attitudes undermine respect for the rule of law, impede reconciliation and hinder inter-ethnic cooperation. We expect Bosnia and Herzegovina to meet all of its obligations towards the Tribunal, and we expect it to take seriously its commitment to implementing its domestic war crimes strategy.

Thirdly, let me affirm United States support for the Office of the High Representative and the use of executive powers when necessary. Numerous Security Council resolutions have affirmed the High Representative's Bonn powers and affirmative responsibility to exercise them to ensure peace, stability and compliance with the Dayton Peace Agreement. All parties are required to respect and implement the High Representative's decisions.

Following the formation of Governments, we expect Bosnia and Herzegovina's leaders to make decisive progress on the outstanding elements of the 5+2 agenda for transition from the Office of the High Representative to an EU Special Representative. We look forward to constitutional and other reforms necessary for the country to present a credible application for EU candidacy.

We also note that the EU's presence — the European Union Force in Bosnia and Herzegovina (EUFOR) — continues to contribute to a safe and secure environment. It should be maintained. We support renewal of the EUFOR mandate, which the Council is currently discussing, and the continuation of a credible EU military presence.

The United States remains fully committed to the framework established by the Dayton Agreement. We look forward to continued reforms as the country's citizens and elected leaders assume full responsibility for their future, eventually leading to Bosnia and Herzegovina's full membership in the European Union and NATO.

Mrs. Viotti (Brazil): I, too, extend a warm welcome to His Excellency Mr. Nebojša Radmanović, Chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and thank him for his important statement. I also thank

High Representative Valentin Inzko for his informative briefing and the report (see S/2010/575, annex) before us.

Brazil commends Bosnia and Herzegovina for having held free, fair and credible general elections last month. The vote should contribute to the consolidation of democracy and help to strengthen key political institutions. Bosnia and Herzegovina is also to be commended for the calm that continues to prevail in the country. Brazil acknowledges the role of the European Union Force in Bosnia and Herzegovina in contributing to a safe and secure environment in the country. We fully support renewal of the Security Council's authorization for the Force.

Also positive is the fact that Bosnia and Herzegovina continues to develop its relations with its neighbours. The completion of conditions for visa liberalization with the European Union is also a positive step on the path towards regional integration.

My delegation reiterates its commitment to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Bosnia and Herzegovina. We support all efforts to strengthen the State at the national level and, at the same time, to preserve the rights and prerogatives of all communal entities. The future of Bosnia and Herzegovina as a stable, prosperous and united country hinges on strict respect for the pertinent international and domestic legal provisions on the division of powers among the different levels of Government.

We are therefore concerned by statements and measures of the entities that question the territorial integrity of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Challenges to the Dayton Peace Agreement and its institutional arrangements, as well as divisive rhetoric, should be avoided. In this regard, we call on all actors to respect the authority of and cooperate with the High Representative. It is collaboration between and among entities and between the entities and the State that will lead to the closure of the Office of the High Representative and the transition to a reinforced European Union presence.

The international community should maintain its active support for Bosnia and Herzegovina in its pursuit for political stability and socio-economic development. There is no future for a divided Bosnia and Herzegovina. We hope that all concerned can come to this conclusion, set aside differences and work together. We are convinced that the Bosnian people, with the support of this Council, can and will succeed in consolidating a fully functional and self-sustaining State.

Mr. Rugunda (Uganda): We welcome the Chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, His Excellency Mr. Radmanović, and thank him for his statement. We thank Mr. Inzko, High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina and European Union Special Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina, for his briefing.

We commend the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina for its important contribution to the stability of the country. We also commend the High Representative for his efforts in facilitating the implementation of the Dayton Agreement. It is important that all leaders in the country continue to commit themselves to dialogue and peaceful coexistence.

We are concerned by actions questioning the sovereignty of Bosnia and Herzegovina's State institutions, as well as the continued challenges to the authority of the High Representative and the Steering Board of the Peace Implementation Council. It is important that all parties, including neighbours of Bosnia and Herzegovina, uphold their commitments in the spirit of good-neighbourliness and peaceful coexistence, as enshrined in the United Nations Charter. We call on the authorities of the Republika Srpska to refrain from rhetoric and actions that challenge the sovereignty and constitutional order of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The European Union military mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina has continued to play an important role in providing the reassurance needed by the citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina. We salute the European Union Force in Bosnia and Herzegovina, in cooperation with the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina, for contributing a safe and secure environment. It is important, however, that every effort be made to support the national security forces so that they can assume their full responsibilities.

We welcome the progress that has been achieved in the country in the area of the entrenchment of the rule of law, particularly in terms of police reform and coordinating the policing aspects of combating major and organized crime.

We are concerned that the situation of refugees and displaced persons remains unresolved. This is a potentially destabilizing matter if not addressed in a holistic way. We therefore call on the authorities to ensure the implementation of the aspects of the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina in dealing with refugees.

We commend Bosnia and Herzegovina for the progress made in economic development, despite the challenges brought about by the global financial and economic crisis. We call upon the international partners to support the country in its efforts to address these challenges.

Finally, we once again commend the High Representative and his staff for their good work.

Mr. **Sumi** (Japan): At the outset, I would like to extend a warm welcome to the Chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, His Excellency Mr. Nebojša Radmanović. I would also like to thank High Representative Valentin Inzko for his comprehensive briefing. I commend the devoted efforts that he and his staff have exerted with sincerity and great dedication to address the very complex and sensitive issues on the ground in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

I welcome the fact that the general elections held in early October were conducted peacefully and successfully overall. In the light of the large number of issues that the country must address, we look forward to the expeditious establishment of the Council of Ministers and the early stabilization of the political situation. In the post-election context, there are at least two aspects that we find to be positive. The first is that the Bosniaks are motivated to reconcile with Serbia, as demonstrated by the apologies expressed by Mr. Izetbegović, a Bosniak member of the Presidency. This development is quite significant for the peace and stability of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the entire West Balkan region.

The second point is that there is strong momentum for cooperation among the members of the Presidency. Their constructive collaboration will show other institutions in the country that the accumulation of cooperation can actually produce improvements in the country as a whole. We cannot be overly optimistic, however, as there remain large gaps among the positions of the various parties and ethnic groups.

We are particularly concerned about some acts that have the potential to destabilize the political situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as indicated in the report of the High Representative (see S/2010/575, annex). The State property law adopted by the Republika Srpska is a flagrant challenge to the authority of the Office of the High Representative. We note with regret that this law makes the possible achievement of the 5+2 agenda difficult.

Japan has consistently supported the policy of Bosnia and Herzegovina regarding Euro-Atlantic integration. In that connection, we welcome the decision by the European Union (EU) Justice and Home Affairs Council to grant the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina a visa exemption to European Union countries. This could increase the incentive and momentum among the Bosnian people towards realizing European integration. We also hope that the achievement of the 5+2 objectives will enable the transition from the Office of the High Representative to the EU Special Representative at the earliest possible date.

The situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina will continue to require an active role on the part of the High Representative until the transition to the EU Special Representative takes place. Japan highly values the activities of Mr. Inzko in bringing calm and reassurance to the situation, and continues to support him fully. We would like once again to reiterate that the High Representative must maintain full authority to fulfil his mission until his mandate comes to an end.

Finally, I would like to express Japan's appreciation for the role that the European Union Force in Bosnia and Herzegovina is playing in that region, and we support the renewal of its mandate now under discussion in the Security Council.

Mr. Issoze-Ngondet (Gabon) (*spoke in French*): At the outset, I would like to welcome the presence of His Excellency Mr. Nebojša Radmanović, Chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and to thank him for his important statement. I also thank Mr. Valentin Inzko, High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina, for introducing his report (see S/2010/575, annex). We share his views and support his efforts for a strong and stable Bosnia and Herzegovina, at home in Europe and in the world at large.

The periodic review by the Security Council of the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina is a crucial opportunity to take stock of developments in the political and security situation in the country and the region. The report that has been presented to us highlights several areas of progress, which Gabon welcomes.

First of all, on the political front, general elections were held on 3 October. The successful holding of the elections attests to the political maturity of all parties involved and to their willingness to build the country on a foundation of peace. The elections should encourage all parties to move forward by rejecting the ethnic rhetoric that has long undermined the country's political and social life. I urge the Bosnians to continue to base the country's progress towards increased peace and stability on the virtues of dialogue and tolerance.

The talks under way aimed at creating a Government based on a broad consensus represents, in my view, another major step forward in the process of establishing the institutional mechanisms that are crucial to political stability, economic and social development and the strengthening of the country.

We also welcome the decision taken by the European Union on 8 November to lift the visa requirement for Albanians and Bosnians in the Schengen area countries. This is a strong political signal that demonstrates European Union commitment to the peace process in Bosnia and Herzegovina and to that country's progressive integration into the European community.

These positive developments lead me to once again urge the various political stakeholders to accelerate their implementation of the Dayton Peace Agreement. Gabon believes that it would be to their benefit to strengthen their cooperation with the High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina, the European Union Force in Bosnia and Herzegovina (EUFOR), NATO and the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia. We must also continue to support the parties in their efforts to achieve the five objectives and two conditions set out by the Steering Board of the Peace Implementation Council, which are essential to the effective transition from the Office of the High Representative to that of the European Union Special Representative.

On the security front, Gabon welcomes the fully stable security conditions throughout the country. In that regard, my delegation commends the central role of EUFOR to that end, in cooperation with the Armed Forces of Bosnian and Herzegovina. I am of the view that reform of the defence sector, which NATO fully supports, will help strengthen security in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

For Gabon, the presence of Bosnia and Herzegovina in this body is proof of the consideration and respect it enjoys in the international community, but also and above all, of its commitment to finding peace and prosperity once again within and with Europe. My country remains hopeful that the peace process under way will be further strengthened by the momentum towards unity, of which the ongoing consultation and dialogue will be the main vectors. Those two tools will open the path to a peaceful and bright future for that country, which has long suffered internal tensions.

Mr. Onemola (Nigeria): I, too, would like to welcome His Excellency Mr. Nebojša Radmanović, Chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, to the Council and to thank him for his statement. I also thank the High Representative, Mr. Valentin Inzko, for his views on the developments in Bosnia and Herzegovina since his last report (see S/2010/235, annex).

We are pleased with the positive developments in Bosnia and Herzegovina since the Council's last meeting on this item (see S/PV.6319). In particular, we note the successful conclusion of the sixth national election last month. We congratulate the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina on their commitment to democracy, as demonstrated by their participation in the elections. We welcome the decision to allow visa-free travel to all Bosnians. Equally, we welcome the European Union's improved relations with the country's neighbours.

We recall with nostalgia the high hopes that attended the signing of the Dayton Peace Agreement 15 years ago. As we welcome the achievements of the past 11 years, we also share the Secretary-General's concern over the limited progress made in implementing the Dayton Peace Agreement and in meeting the outstanding requirements set by the Steering Board of the Peace Implementation Council

for the transition from the Office of the High Representative to a European Union presence.

In the same vein, we observe that the reported increase in provocative and nationalistic rhetoric further undermines efforts towards achieving a stable and peaceful country, fully integrated into Euro-Atlantic structures. We encourage political leaders to commit to the necessary reforms and to ensure the completion of the five objectives and two conditions for the closure of the Office of the High Representative. They should also refrain from nationalistic and anti-Dayton rhetoric, surmount their differences and commit to dialogue.

We welcome the contributions of the regional and international partners in support of Bosnia and Herzegovina's progress towards Euro-Atlantic integration. We encourage it not to relent in its efforts to ensure that all outstanding issues pertaining to the country's integration into the European Union are resolved speedily. We appreciate the role of the European Union's peacekeeping, in collaboration with the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina, to ensure a safe and secure environment in the country.

We commend the High Representative for his tireless efforts to promote the entry of Bosnia and Herzegovina into the European Union and to facilitate the implementation of the Dayton Agreement. We look forward to a more collaborative effort between the Office of the High Representative, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the Government in ensuring the full implementation of annex 7 of the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina in order to close the chapter of displacement in Bosnia and Herzegovina by 2014.

It is a positive development that the economy of Bosnia and Herzegovina is showing signs of improvement. Economic growth in the country is essential to supporting efforts to sustain peace and stability. The Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina will need to continue the necessary reforms and to work assiduously with its international partners to improve the economy. We call on the international community to continue to support the Government in its efforts to foster economic progress, thereby improving the lives of the average Bosnian.

Let me conclude by stating that Nigeria, along with Council members, will remain focused in efforts to support the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina to achieve a prosperous and democratic country. We urge all concerned to display more maturity, as we believe that the Bosnian people can confront the current challenges with the necessary political will.

The President: I shall now make a statement in my national capacity.

I thank the High Representative for his very clear report (see S/2010/575, annex) and express the United Kingdom's strong support for his ongoing work in Bosnia and Herzegovina. I also thank His Excellency Mr. Radmanović for attending this meeting so soon after his swearing-in for a second term on the Presidency, and congratulate him on his re-election.

The United Kingdom shares Mr. Inzko's concerns about the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Over the past six months, there has been a worrying lack of progress on key reforms and an escalation of divisive anti-Dayton rhetoric and actions against Bosnia and Herzegovina's State-level institutions. In that context, it is important to obtain the means to deal with the challenges to Dayton.

We want to see transition from the Office of the High Representative to the European Union Special Representative, but only on the basis of the full completion of the 5+2 conditionality. The level of rhetoric highlighted in the report is of particular concern. It is important that the Security Council make very clear its unequivocal commitment to Bosnia and Herzegovina's territorial integrity, as enshrined in the Dayton Agreement.

We fully agree with the High Representative's call for the continuing mandate of the European Union Force in Bosnia and Herzegovina (EUFOR). In the context of the continued political tensions, EUFOR fulfils an essential role underpinning stability in Bosnia and Herzegovina. We welcome the fact that the October elections were conducted, as the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights has said, generally in line with international standards. The newly elected leaders now need quickly to form new Governments at the federal and State levels, with the reform agenda at the heart of their programmes.

I now resume my functions as President of the Council.

I give the floor to the representative of Croatia.

Mr. Vilović (Croatia): At the outset, allow me to extend my welcome to His Excellency Mr. Nebojša Radmanović, Chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina. We are also pleased to see again among us His Excellency Mr. Valentin Inzko, High Representative and Special Representative of the European Union, and thank him for his briefing. The report (see S/2010/575, annex) that he presented accurately reflects recent developments in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and we share the concerns that he expressed in his report and his briefing. I would like to take this opportunity to reaffirm Croatia's full and continued support for him and his Office.

Bearing in mind the existing shortcomings in addressing the remaining objectives and conditions, as well as the continuing challenges to the very foundations of Bosnia and Herzegovina, as established by the Dayton Peace Agreement — the fifteenth anniversary of which we will mark shortly — we agree with the assessment that it would be premature to begin the closure of the Office of the High Representative this year.

I would like to make three brief points.

First, we welcome the fact that the October elections were free, fair and generally organized in accordance with democratic principles and international standards. Croatia believes that elected individuals and political parties should enter into constructive dialogue on the formation of new Governments at all levels so as to continue, as soon as possible, with the process of reforms needed for Euro-Atlantic integration.

Negotiations on constitutional reform should be continued in the post-electoral period. Croatia reiterates its call to political leaders in Bosnia and Herzegovina to find strength and reach compromise on key issues. Assisting Bosnia and Herzegovina in reaching sustainable stability and functionality is one of our regional priorities. However, there will be no progress without consensus, which has to originate from within and enjoy the support of regional actors and the international community.

For Croatia, the territorial integrity, sovereignty and equality of Bosnia and Herzegovina's three constitutive peoples are the basic preconditions for the country's stability and sustainability. Croatia therefore advocates for constitutional amendments that provide full equality for all constitutive peoples and citizens throughout the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Secondly, Croatia's strategic interest is the stability, security and progress of South-East Europe. We are pleased that the report recognized the improved political environment in relations between countries in the region. I would like to reiterate that Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina enjoy a close and friendly relationship in many aspects. The high-level visits of both President Josipović and Prime Minister Kosor represent strong encouragement to Bosnia and Herzegovina and to Croats in Bosnia and Herzegovina, including as regards their viable return to their country, primarily to Republika Srpska.

In the same vein, Croatia strongly supports the clear and unambiguous European and Euro-Atlantic perspective of Bosnia and Herzegovina. We firmly support all the countries of the region in their reforms. We have invested a lot of effort in offering them our assistance and experience on the European Union and NATO integration path. We believe that membership in the European Union represents the most suitable framework for the overall development of all countries of South-East Europe.

Therefore, we are particularly pleased with the recent decision of the Council of the European Union on the abolition of the visa requirement for citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina holding biometric passports. This is a welcome step that not only brings real benefits to the people, but may also reverse the trend of Bosnia and Herzegovina lagging behind other countries in the region in its rapprochement to the European Union.

On the other hand, we regret that the invitation extended by NATO to Bosnia and Herzegovina to join its membership action plan, a step that Croatia strongly and actively supported, has not been followed by the start of its annual national programme. We call on the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina to take all the necessary measures in order to fulfil requirements regarding State property.

Thirdly, as we have stated on many occasions, there cannot be a Bosnia and Herzegovina without Croats in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Their political and cultural survival is vital for the continued existence of Bosnia and Herzegovina, as these two elements are closely intertwined. Croats in Bosnia and Herzegovina are the smallest and most vulnerable group. Their voice

should be considered on the basis of equality, both ethnic and civic, as guaranteed in the Constitution and as stemming from the history of the country. Croats should have the equal right to participate in the decision-making process and should not be out-voted, especially at the level of the Federation.

Finally, the fight against impunity for war crimes is crucial for the normalization of the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The mandate of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia should not be declared complete without bringing to justice the two remaining fugitives, Ratko Mladić and Goran Hadžić, who were indicted for the most atrocious crimes committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in Croatia. It is also important that national courts fulfil their lasting responsibility and address their war crime cases.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Serbia.

Mr. Vilović (Serbia): Let me, first of all, warmly welcome His Excellency Mr. Nebojša Radmanović, Chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and His Excellency Mr. Valentin Inzko, High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina.

As on all previous occasions, the delegation of Serbia has read the report on implementation of the Peace Agreement (see S/2010/575) that has been presented. We have also listened with keen interest to the views expressed in the Council today. Serbia is fully committed to continuing, in cooperation with Bosnia and Herzegovina and other regional stakeholders, activities aimed at bringing about full reconciliation and lasting stability in the region. We are convinced that the joint efforts and cooperation of all the countries in the region, along with the intensification of the efforts of the international community, will contribute to the strengthening of Bosnia and Herzegovina as one country.

Serbia is making great efforts to significantly advance its relations with Bosnia and Herzegovina, our next-door neighbour and a friendly country. It is precisely the continued development and promotion of relations among States of the Western Balkans that will bring us to the achievement of our common goal, namely, integration into the European Union (EU).

We welcome democratic processes. In that spirit, we also welcome the recently held elections, which expressed the will of the people. We see them as an important step forward in ensuring a peaceful and prosperous future for all the citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina and in creating conditions for further advancement towards the European Union.

In order to bring greater stability to the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the country needs some encouragement from the Union, as EU integration is a common denominator of the aspirations of the peoples of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Encouragement and concrete support for Bosnia and Herzegovina's integration into the European Union would go a long way in bringing about further stability to the country. Serbia has been a staunch advocate of Bosnia and Herzegovina's inclusion into the EU's liberalization of the visa regime. We are very happy that this decision has finally been adopted. That is exactly the much-needed and strategically important signal of a European future for Bosnia and Herzegovina.

As a signatory party and a guarantor of the implementation of the Peace Agreement for Bosnia and Herzegovina, and in accordance with resolution 1031 (1995), Serbia remains strongly committed to the integrity of Bosnia and Herzegovina and consistently respects its territorial integrity and sovereignty. We support the initiation of reform processes in Bosnia and Herzegovina. We are of the opinion that the closure of the Office of the High Representative and the termination of the so-called Bonn powers would contribute to finding a solution in that regard.

We call for the achievement of a sustainable solution in the spirit of European values, with the agreement of the representatives of the two entities and the consensus of the three constituent peoples. Serbia is encouraging the participants in that process to do all that is needed to bring about such an agreement.

Our constructive approach to the search for a solution is based not only on our support for the integrity of Bosnia and Herzegovina, but also on our deep conviction that only dialogue and agreement can bring about a solution that can be sustained in the future. Every solution in Bosnia and Herzegovina should be followed by peace and stability and should be reached by agreements that do not bring into question the integrity of the country, for it is only a stable and prosperous region that can become a part of the European family of nations.

Based on the Special Parallel Relationship Agreement between the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and Republika Srpska, Serbia views the development of its relations with the Republika Srpska in the context of its efforts to intensify overall relations with Bosnia and Herzegovina. Guided by its commitment to a complete normalization and substantively new relations, my country is devoted to the further improvement of relations and has taken important steps towards comprehensive regional reconciliation. The declaration on Srebrenica of the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia demonstrates clearly Serbia's support for Bosnia and Herzegovina, but also its readiness to confront the past and assume political responsibility for the future and the well-being of the region. The Istanbul declaration and the regular trilateral meetings of the Foreign Ministers of Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Turkey contribute and lend impetus to the further promotion of good-neighbourly relations.

We are fully aware that regional and economic cooperation provide a special impulse to the lasting stabilization of the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the region of South-East Europe/Western Balkans. The successful cooperation between Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina within the framework of numerous international and regional initiatives — such as the Process of Cooperation in South-East Europe, the Central European Free Trade Agreement, the Regional Cooperation Council, the Central European Initiative, the Adriatic-Ionian Initiative and others — is a good example of the importance that we attach to the promotion of regional cooperation and a common European future. We are committed to furthering ever better and more extensive regional cooperation and integration so that we can find common answers to regional challenges and cooperate in our efforts to join the European Union.

The President: There are no further speakers inscribed on my list. I thank Mr. Radmanović and Mr. !nzko for their participation in today's meeting.

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 4.50 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.6421*

Security Council

Sixty-fifth year

Provisional

6421st meeting

Thursday, 11 November 2010, 3 p.m.
New York

President:	Sir Mark Lyall Grant	(United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)
Members:	Austria	Mr. Mayr-Harting
	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Mr. Radmanović
	Brazil	Mrs. Viotti
	China	Mr. Li Baodong
	France	Mr. Briens
	Gabon	Mr. Issoze-Ngondet
	Japan	Mr. Sumi
	Lebanon	Mr. Assaf
	Mexico	Mr. Heller
	Nigeria	Mr. Onemola
	Russian Federation	Mr. Churkin
	Turkey	Mr. Apakan
	Uganda	Mr. Rugunda
	United States of America	Mrs. DiCarlo

Agenda

The situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Letter dated 8 November 2010 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2010/575)

* Reissued for technical reasons on 8 December 2010.

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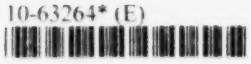
10-63264* (E)



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The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Letter dated 8 November 2010 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2010/575)

The President: At the outset, I should like to acknowledge the presence of His Excellency Mr. Nebojša Radmanović, Chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina. On behalf of the Security Council, I extend a warm welcome to Mr. Radmanović.

I should like to inform the Council that I have received letters from the representatives of Croatia and Serbia, in which they request to be invited to participate in the consideration of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite those representatives to participate in the consideration of the item, without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Vilović (Croatia) and Mr. Starčević (Serbia) took the seats reserved for them at the side of the Council Chamber.

The President: In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, I shall take it that the Security Council agrees to extend an invitation under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure to His Excellency Mr. Valentin Inzko, High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina.

It is so decided.

I invite Mr. Inzko to take a seat at the Council table.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

I should like to draw the attention of members of the Council to document S/2010/575, which contains a letter dated 8 November 2010 from the Secretary-General transmitting the thirty-eighth report of the High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina.

At this meeting, the Security Council will hear a briefing by His Excellency Mr. Valentin Inzko. I now give him the floor.

Mr. Inzko: I thank the Council for giving me the opportunity today to present my fourth report as High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina and the thirty-eighth report altogether. I hope that my presentation will provide a better understanding of the overall situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, where we stand now and what challenges we will face in the period ahead.

It is now exactly 15 years since the Peace Agreement ending the hostilities in Bosnia and Herzegovina was concluded in Dayton. Since that day, there has been significant progress in the country and Bosnia and Herzegovina's membership of and successful work in the Security Council is just one example of the many improvements that we have seen in the past 15 years.

In that respect, it is a great pleasure to have President Radmanović here, representing Bosnia and Herzegovina in this forum. Let me also take this opportunity to congratulate Mr. Radmanović on his re-election to the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina and on assuming the Chairmanship of the Presidency yesterday.

Let me also congratulate every citizen in Bosnia and Herzegovina on the European Union (EU) decision earlier this week to allow visa-free travel for all Bosnians to all the Schengen countries of the European Union. That is a very significant decision, which shows the EU's commitment to Bosnia and Herzegovina's European future. But it also demonstrates that Bosnia and Herzegovina's political leaders can address difficult reform if they muster the necessary political will.

Moreover, the regional situation in the Western Balkans has continued to develop positively. In the summer, the Croatian and Serbian Presidents made ground-breaking visits to Bosnia and Herzegovina that underlined the need for reconciliation and regional cooperation. As recently as last week, Serbian

President Tadić apologized for Serbia's role in the 1991 Vukovar massacre. In a similar fashion, the new Bosniak member of the Bosnia and Herzegovina Presidency, Bakir Izetbegović, offered his own apology to Serbia for the crimes committed against innocent civilians by the Bosnian army during the war. Those are positive acts and gestures of reconciliation, which have had a positive impact in the region and in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

However, despite the improved atmosphere in the region, the political situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina remains complex. Today, 15 years after the signing of the Dayton Agreement, there is still insufficient dialogue and compromise. Sadly, nationalist agendas inside the country have continued to prevail over cooperation and compromise. The European Commission's progress report published just two days ago accordingly confirmed that Bosnia and Herzegovina is not living up to its potential and that in the past year the country has only made limited progress in addressing the conditions for European integration. Basically, there has been no progress on key reforms required for Euro-Atlantic integration in the past year.

Unfortunately, the developments of the past year are symptomatic of the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina during the past four years. Whereas there was substantial progress in the first 11 years after the war, in the past four years there has been stagnation and time has been largely wasted. The fundamentals of the country and its institutions, including their constitutional framework, have been challenged on a regular basis. Let me give the Council some concrete examples.

First, there has been a fundamental change in the rhetoric and verbal attacks against the State. Leading politicians from Republika Srpska have frequently referred to the future independence of their entity while claiming that Bosnia and Herzegovina is an "impossible country", and therefore not sustainable. The same leaders have also repeatedly denied rulings by two international United Nations courts, the International Court of Justice and the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, that genocide took place in Srebrenica, thus further increasing tensions. I want to underline that, despite that rhetoric, the Federation-based parties have stopped challenging the existence of Republika Srpska almost entirely. However, the leading Bosnian Croat party, the Croatian Democratic Union of Bosnia and Herzegovina, has called for a separate Croat entity. That may not be realistic, but it is nevertheless unnecessarily increasing the tensions in the country.

Secondly, the State-level institutions have not worked to their full potential during the past four years, due mainly to political obstruction. In comparison with the previous State-level Parliament, in the period 2002 to 2006, the outgoing Parliament has adopted one third less legislation.

Thirdly, there has also been a marked increase in unilateral actions, with the entities adopting and implementing legislation with little regard for the State and/or the other entity. Republika Srpska in particular has adopted a number of laws that challenge European partnership priorities or that aim to dismantle State-level reforms. There have also been similar, but less frequent, developments in the Federation.

The problems to which I have referred have lead to a political stalemate and clear stagnation during the past four years. As a result, as confirmed by the European Commission's progress report, there has been only limited progress in addressing EU-related reforms. To name just two, in the past year State-level authorities have failed to address the December 2009 ruling of the European Court of Human Rights with regard to discrimination against some citizens in Bosnia and Herzegovina who are prevented from fully participating in public affairs and receiving appointments to certain State-level institutions.

Similarly, a State-level census law has not been adopted, as the political parties could not agree on the future implementation of the census results. It will now be up to the new legislature to deal with this issue. But it is unlikely that Bosnia and Herzegovina will be able to hold a State-level census in 2011 together with the other countries in the region and in the world.

Equally, there has been very little progress in implementing the objectives and conditions for the transition or the closure of the Office of the High Representative that have been determined by the Peace Implementation Council.

On the State property objective, there has actually been regression, as the Republika Srpska National Assembly adopted its own law on State property, which — if it enters into force — would register all State property in that entity to Republika Srpska. If the

law is formally enacted, it will make a comprehensive negotiated solution on State property impossible. Consequently, that would make the closure of the Office of the High Representative substantially more difficult.

Furthermore, similar to the situation with State property, there has been no progress in addressing the defence property objective since my last report. As a result, Bosnia and Herzegovina's progress towards NATO has stalled, as it has not been able to meet the conditions for implementing NATO's membership action plan. Equally, Republika Srpska authorities continue to fail to meet the outstanding requirement for the termination of the supervision of Brcko.

Due to the lack of progress, the Peace Implementation Council has not been able to decide about the closure of the Office of the High Representative, as already foreseen in 2006. The Peace Implementation Council will meet again later this month to consider the situation. In essence, however, the decision about the closure or transition of my Office depends on the readiness of Bosnian political leaders to meet the objectives and conditions that have been set.

Despite the increasingly difficult situation on the ground and despite the lack of progress in addressing the conditions for the closure of my Office, in July 2010 I unilaterally reduced my staff by over 20 per cent. When I arrived in Bosnia and Herzegovina last year, my Office still had 220 employees; now it has 160. Of course, many years ago, my Office had 800 employees. I also handed over the responsibility to vet certain appointed entity and cantonal officials to the respective local authorities, in a spirit of transition and more local ownership.

It was in that overall atmosphere that I have described that general elections were held last month. The international media portrayed those elections as a watershed event in the future of the country that will determine whether it will move forward towards Euro-Atlantic integration or backwards towards disintegration owing to increasing calls for secession coming from the smaller entity.

The Bosnian election authorities conducted those elections efficiently. International election-observation missions concluded that the elections were generally held in accordance with international standards. The turnout for the general elections was around 57 per cent, which is the highest turnout in any election since 2002. At the same time, if we compare this election with the elections in 2006, there was an 18 per cent increase in the number of voters. This is good news that shows citizens increasingly care about the future of their country.

At the same time, the elections were held on the basis of the current election law, which is not in line with the European Convention for Human Rights. This does not affect the legitimacy of the elections, but this problem must be addressed urgently after the formation of the new Government.

Let me underline that Bosnia and Herzegovina, in order to become fully sustainable and to move forward towards Euro-Atlantic integration, will need political leaders that are ready to change the way they conduct politics. Zero-sum politics will need to be replaced by politics based on compromise and a readiness to meet each other half way. I cannot overemphasize this point. This is fundamental for a stable and forward-looking country. In this regard, the responsibility for what happens in the next four years is firmly in the hands of the incoming authorities. They have a choice to make and, when they make it, they must take responsibility for what follows.

The choice facing Bosnia and Herzegovina is not whether it survives as a State or whether it is divided. It will definitively continue to exist. The partition of the country or secession are not solutions. If it were possible to partition Bosnia and Herzegovina peacefully, it would have happened in 1992. It was, however, not possible then and it is not possible today. The partition of the country would also be a triumph for the Milošević-led policy of the past. Instead, the choice facing Bosnia and Herzegovina is whether it chooses to reintegrate and reform, and in so doing join the EU and NATO, or whether it chooses stagnation and isolation.

In light of the situation I have described, there is still a need for the international community to remain fully focused on Bosnia and Herzegovina. We must continue to accompany the authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina on the Euro-Atlantic path, and the international community must make it clear to the incoming Governments what we expect from them in the period ahead. As a first step to recreating the momentum, we must urge politicians to form Governments at all levels that are focused on the

Euro-Atlantic agenda. However, Government formation — especially at the State-level — may take a long time, especially since some politicians have made clear their desire to roll back previously agreed reforms and to devolve a number of competencies from the State to the entities.

Furthermore, we must insist very vocally that Bosnia and Herzegovina's territorial integrity and constitutional framework be preserved. Unfortunately, this emphasis is still necessary. We must make clear that only Bosnia and Herzegovina as one country has a future in the EU and NATO and that rhetoric about Bosnia and Herzegovina being an impossible State must stop.

Beyond those basic issues, we need Bosnia and Herzegovina to progress with urgency towards both the European Union and NATO. This is in Bosnia and Herzegovina's interest as well as in the international community's interest. In this regard, we should strongly encourage Bosnia and Herzegovina to address the main problems identified in the European Commission's progress report, such as the European Court of Human Rights ruling, the census law and other key European partnership priorities. We should encourage Bosnia and Herzegovina to address the five objectives and two conditions that have been set for the transition and closure of the Office of the High Representative. Finally, we should encourage Bosnia and Herzegovina to start a step-by-step process of constitutional changes in order to make a country that is self-sustainable and efficient in dealing with the challenges of Euro-Atlantic integration. We are speaking here not of the centralization of a State or the strengthening of centralized institutions; we are speaking here of strengthening the efficiency of State institutions.

In 10 days, we will mark the fifteenth anniversary of the Dayton Peace Agreement. In this context, we need to ensure that we do not leave the job in Bosnia and Herzegovina unfinished. As I have argued before, the presence of the European Union Force in Bosnia and Herzegovina (EUFOR) with an executive mandate is still important. I must underline that it is important that sufficient troops be left on the ground to provide adequate levels of reassurance to the citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina. In this respect, I strongly recommend the renewal of the Security Council resolution on EUFOR next week.

Our continued attention on Bosnia and Herzegovina is the way to get to the objective that we all want to reach, where Bosnia and Herzegovina can move towards full Euro-Atlantic integration under its own steam — and that means with full ownership and the full responsibilities that go along with it. I am truly convinced that this possibility can become a reality, and I will, as High Representative and also as the Special Representative of the EU, continue to dedicate all my efforts to assisting and supporting Bosnia and Herzegovina's efforts in this direction. I also count on the continued support of the Council in this regard.

The President: I thank Mr. Inzko for his briefing.

I shall now give the floor to members of the Security Council.

Mr. Radmanović (*spoke in Bosnian; English interpretation provided by the delegation*): It is an honour to address the Security Council in the debate on Bosnia and Herzegovina. Today's debate will facilitate a better understanding of the political situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the progress the country has achieved in this last period.

Since the last report of the Secretary-General was issued (see S/2010/235), many things have occurred in Bosnia and Herzegovina that have changed the situation in the country. There are many different opinions and analyses among the political actors and citizens regarding the progress achieved in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Until now, the Presidency has not had a unified position on this issue. Allow me, as the Chairman of the Presidency, to present the view agreed upon with the other two members of the Presidency on the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, along with possible future developments.

Today, it is popular to talk about Bosnia and Herzegovina predominantly in gloomy terms, as was recently done in this Chamber. Bosnia and Herzegovina is the ideal arena in which to test various catastrophe theories. Unlike other, similar regions of the world in which the international community is engaged, Bosnia and Herzegovina on the whole represents a positive example of the peacebuilding efforts of the international community. This is confirmed by numerous reports of relevant international organizations, independent institutions and non-governmental organizations. To be honest, Bosnia and Herzegovina did experience a slight delay in its reform and transition process in the past six

months. One reason is that this was an election year in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and that the political entities were focused more on the election campaign and attracting voters than on the real problems of the country.

This year we mark the fifteenth anniversary of the signing the Dayton Peace Agreement for Bosnia and Herzegovina. Fifteen years ago, Bosnia and Herzegovina emerged from a tragic conflict that had destabilized the country and the entire region. Today, 15 years later, we wonder what and how much we have achieved of all that was signed and agreed. Let me say this: With the combined efforts of the international community and local authorities, Bosnia and Herzegovina has made significant progress in the post-war period, which is a positive example compared to many similar critical areas in the world. It would be difficult to find an example of a peace agreement in modern European or world history that was more rapidly and successfully implemented. Those who are dissatisfied with the pace of progress in Bosnia and Herzegovina are seeking a remedy by challenging the very foundations of the existing Peace Agreement, which will only lead us to new conflicts and disputes.

Since the end of the war, Bosnia and Herzegovina has implemented all key elements of the Dayton Peace Agreement. A stable peace has been established; the country has been functioning according to the constitutional grounds set out in the Dayton Peace Agreement; most refugees and displaced persons have recuperated their property and many have returned to their homes.

Consequently, Bosnia and Herzegovina is a success story compared to other territories in the region. Six general parliamentary elections have been held, the last few of which were completely organized by local authorities. Domestically, a single economic space has emerged. The macroeconomic indicators of the economy are stable, showing a slow but positive upward trend. A value-added tax has been successfully introduced. Reforms of the defence sector and the armed forces have been successfully implemented. Following the initial arrests of indicted war criminals by international military forces, most of the others have been arrested and extradited to the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia in The Hague by the local authorities. War crimes trials have been processed in the national courts.

Bosnia and Herzegovina has become a member of the Council of Europe and other international organizations, the country joined the NATO Partnership for Peace and became a member of the European Free Trade Association, leading to its signing a Stabilization and Association Agreement with the European Union (EU). The country has fulfilled 174 requirements for a visa-free regime with the EU and a positive decision has already been made. Reforms are ongoing in public administration, justice, higher education, the public broadcasting system and the harmonization of the Constitution with the European Convention on Human Rights and the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg.

I recall that, as a result of the favourable development of the political and security situation in Bosnia, NATO has reduced its troops in Bosnia and Herzegovina and its presence to the headquarters in Sarajevo. The European Union Force has also reduced its forces in Bosnia and Herzegovina as a result of the apparent progress in achieving a secure and stable environment.

There are differing views in Bosnia and Herzegovina regarding the role and future status of the Office of the High Representative. The political representatives of one people are of the opinion that the Office of the High Representative should permanently remain in Bosnia and Herzegovina, but the representatives of the others believe that its closure is necessary and that its functions should be transferred to the EU Special Representative. While there may have been reasons after the war for the Office of the High Representative to exist, 15 years later they have been significantly reduced.

The latest report of the European Commission on Bosnia stated that Bosnia and Herzegovina cannot take further steps in the process of European integration until the transition of the Office of the High Representative to the Special Representative of the European Union is complete.

All the changes in Bosnia and Herzegovina must be based on the rule of law. The full implementation of the Dayton Peace Agreement is therefore imperative. The Dayton accord is primarily an agreement, not a framework from which one can pick and choose only that which is agreeable while shirking one's other obligations. In regard to the decisions of the Office of the High Representative amending annex 4 of the

Accord, it is clear that legal agreements should be changed only in respect to the way they were adopted, if not otherwise agreed on. Discussions on these issues will therefore continue.

The problem of building a functional State cannot be solved merely by changing the constitutional and legal procedures for promulgating decisions in Bosnia and Herzegovina, aimed at greater or lesser centralization or decentralization. This is a simplistic and dangerous solution to the country's complex and sensitive political problems. In a complex and multi-ethnic country like Bosnia and Herzegovina, such an approach would bring the Government's legitimacy into question and disturb a region that is still not fully stable.

National reconciliation and trust are basic prerequisites for building a functional State, and that cannot be achieved without prosecuting all war criminals of all nations in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Hague Tribunal has recognized Bosnia and Herzegovina's cooperation in this matter, rendering any other comments on it unnecessary.

There has been a lack of understanding of the problem of the return of refugees on the part of local politicians in Bosnia and Herzegovina and, partly, of the international community. In reality, no country in the world has done more for the return of refugees than Bosnia and Herzegovina. Sustainable returns of refugees remain a challenge, and in this area Bosnia and Herzegovina needs the support of the international community. In addition, the international community needs to deal with the fact that within 500 kilometres of the Western Balkans — encompassing Croatia, Serbia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina — legal standards on the right to return vary, resulting in further injustice for the refugee population.

Every country in the Western Balkans is currently progressing towards the status required for admission to the European Union, and while Bosnia and Herzegovina may lag behind its neighbours, it is not as far behind as some contend.

All of these are reasons for encouraging Bosnia and Herzegovina on its journey towards membership of the European Union, to which it rightfully belongs; towards the rapid transition of the Office of the High Representative; and towards enabling Bosnia and Herzegovina's leaders to negotiate and act in accordance with their agreements without external pressure. Agreement, understanding, equality and tolerance are the essence of all reforms in Bosnia and Herzegovina and should be encouraged, commended and approved.

Mr. Heller (Mexico) (*spoke in Spanish*): At the outset, I would like to welcome Mr. Nebojša Radmanović, Chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina. I would also like to welcome Mr. Valentin Inzko, High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina and Special Representative of the European Union for Bosnia and Herzegovina, and to thank him for his report (see S/2010/575, annex).

Mexico commends Bosnia and Herzegovina's active participation as an elected member of the Security Council, demonstrating the progress that this country has made in recent years in a context that is not without its difficulties. Its progress in moving strategically closer to the European Union and in developing more flexible relations with its neighbours in a more cooperative atmosphere is an important step forward in consolidating Bosnia and Herzegovina's role on the international stage and in promoting regional stability.

My delegation believes that, in order to consolidate lasting peace and stability in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the main political forces of the country must step up their dialogue and reach an understanding among themselves. We therefore welcome the fair and orderly holding of the general elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina on 3 October. We are convinced that this is the path that must be taken.

We regret, however, the divisive rhetoric employed by one of the parties, which does not contribute to the creation of a political climate conducive to the process of internal integration, peacebuilding and reconciliation. Nor is it a promising sign for these efforts that there are those who seek to challenge the work and the authority of the High Representative and Special Representative of the European Union. The political actors involved must promote negotiation and conciliation as the only way to overcome differences constructively and to avoid confrontations that may endanger the country's stability and constitutional framework. There is no doubt that a Government of unity is the way to achieve national reconstruction and eventual integration into Euro-Atlantic institutions.

I would like to stress the importance of the international community's ongoing support for the efforts of the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina to strengthen the rule of law. That is why we support the High Representative's recommendation that the presence of the European Union force in Bosnia and Herzegovina be maintained in 2011, given its relevant role in continuing to provide peace and security to the population through the support of the Office of the High Representative.

We believe that respect for and the strengthening of national justice institutions are fundamental elements of the fight against the impunity of those responsible for serious crimes committed in the past, and in order to promote national reconciliation and the rule of law. We welcome the adoption of the revised strategy for the implementation of annex 7 of the Dayton Peace Agreement, concerning the return of displaced persons and refugees. We are confident that this step will make an important contribution to the voluntary and sustainable return of the 113,000 people who remain internally displaced, more than 7,000 of whom are living in conditions of poverty.

We reiterate our call on the political leaders of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the countries of the region to cooperate with the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, in order to allow it to effectively fulfil its mandate, particularly by contributing information to the open cases of war crimes and crimes against humanity that the Tribunal is currently investigating, with a view to serving justice and contributing to post-conflict reconciliation and stabilization efforts in the region.

In conclusion, we reiterate Mexico's support for the work of the High Representative, and we hope that Bosnia and Herzegovina will be able to overcome its differences once and for all and consolidate a democratic, multi-ethnic State in which its citizens, like all those of the Balkans region, will be able to enjoy a more stable and prosperous future as an integral part of Europe.

Mr. Churkin (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): We welcome the participation in today's meeting of the Chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mr. Radmanović. We listened attentively to his assessment of the situation in that country. We are grateful to the High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mr. Inzko, for presenting the report on developments in Bosnia and Herzegovina (see S/2010/575, annex).

As we see it, the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina remains complex, although we do not wish to overdramatize it. The general elections, a very important milestone for the country, were held in a calm and peaceful manner. There are no direct threats to the Dayton Peace Agreement. The viability of Bosnia and Herzegovina as a State is reaffirmed by its election as a non-permanent member of the Security Council and by the successful work of its delegation in this principal organ of the United Nations.

In these circumstances, the further continuation of the Office of the High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina, which enjoys extraordinary Bonn powers, no longer has meaning and has become counterproductive. Any unilateral step taken by the High Representative will only exacerbate the situation and provoke a response from the Bosnian sides.

The Bosnians' successful holding of elections in accordance with international standards, as confirmed by international observers, attests to the maturity of Bosnian statehood and the ability of its citizens to take decisions about the future of their country without external guardianship. The international community should work constructively with those leaders who were elected by the citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina, including the Republika Srpska.

In our view, the main task of the international community in the post-election period is to transfer full responsibility for the future of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the Bosnians themselves. In practical terms, this means ensuring conditions conducive to transforming the Office of the High Representative into a mission of the European Union Special Representative. In the framework of the Steering Board of the Peace Implementation Council, we agreed on a road map to that end — the 5+2 formula. Following the formation of the structures of power in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the entities, it is now necessary that we return to that task.

It is unacceptable to link the 5+2 formula to the achievement of objectives in the framework of the so-called Euro-Atlantic agenda for Bosnia and Herzegovina. The High Representative spoke at great length — perhaps too great a length — of that today. It is especially unacceptable to link it to the achievement of constitutional reform, which would run counter to

the programme, collectively agreed upon by the Steering Board of the Peace Implementation Council, for closing the Office of the High Representative.

The lessons learned from the Butmir initiative demonstrate that the imposition from the outside of ready-made blueprints can only complicate dialogue among Bosnians and lead to an unjustified encouragement of one side. We believe that, with respect to an issue so fundamental to the future of Bosnia and Herzegovina, it will be possible to identify any corrective adjustment only with the consent of all three constituent peoples, as stipulated in the Dayton Peace Agreement.

We agree with the view that it would be advisable to begin without delay implementing the recommendations set forth in December 2009 by the European Court of Human Rights. They can and must be implemented on the basis of compromise among the Bosnian sides. We cannot endorse an expansive interpretation of the opinion of the European Court of Human Rights or attempts on that pretext to achieve a fundamental revision of the entire Dayton construction. Any step towards constitutional reform should be strictly within the Dayton legal framework.

Mr. Assaf (Lebanon) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, I wish to thank His Excellency Mr. Radmanović for his statement. We also thank the High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mr. Valentin Inzko, for his comprehensive briefing. We commend his efforts to promote the political process under the Dayton Peace Agreement.

We support the efforts of Bosnia and Herzegovina to complete the implementation of the Dayton accord and to achieve the goals of the Steering Board of the Peace Implementation Council, which will ultimately lead to the closure of the Office of the High Representative. We welcome the progress achieved by Bosnia and Herzegovina on several issues, in particular the stabilization of the security situation, the holding of free and fair elections in October, and the fulfilment of the European Union conditions concerning visa liberalization.

However, several daunting challenges remain. The pre-election circumstances overshadowed the situation and led to the interruption of important reforms. We regret the rhetoric used to attack the Dayton Peace Agreement and the sovereignty, legislation and competencies of the State in the course of the election. We therefore urge all parties concerned to reach a timely understanding on the formation of a progressive Government and to engage in open dialogue to achieve reconciliation and embark on the path of reform that will ensure real progress for all citizens, irrespective of their ethnicity.

It is imperative to create an environment conducive to achieving progress on many issues, particularly constitutional and economic reform, the resolution of issues concerning State property, particularly defence property, and the filling of key public positions. The sustainable return of refugees is vital to achieving lasting peace. We support the role of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia in establishing justice in the region in order to avoid the recurrence of past tragedies.

We believe that the international community should continue to support Bosnia and Herzegovina in its efforts to overcome its political difficulties and to strike a balance between centralization and decentralization. Fifteen years after the Dayton Peace Agreement, we cherish the hope that Bosnia and Herzegovina will make firm strides towards the prosperity and stability to which all its citizens aspire.

Mr. Li Baodong (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): This year marks the fifteenth anniversary of the Dayton Peace Agreement. The current situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina is generally calm. We welcome the smooth holding of the general elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina in October and the progress made in security sector reform and the rule of law, as well as the steady economic improvements.

We also note, however, that Bosnia and Herzegovina continues to face complex situations and difficulties on its path towards stability and development. China respects the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Bosnia and Herzegovina and all its ethnic communities in their independent choice of paths to development. The future of Bosnia and Herzegovina is in the hands of its peoples. The international community should respect their ownership and leadership.

We hope that all the ethnic communities of Bosnia and Herzegovina will focus their attention on the long-term interests of their State, effectively implement the Dayton Peace Agreement, actively pursue dialogue, enhance political trust, and promote national reconciliation. We look forward to the timely

formation of the new Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the completion of constitutional reform, economic recovery, the establishment of the rule of law and social development.

The maintenance of lasting peace and stability in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Balkans is in the interests of all parties, and sustained dialogue and cooperation are the fundamental means to that end. We support the efforts of the international community to facilitate high-level political dialogue among the various actors in Bosnia and Herzegovina. We are pleased to note that the High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina, pursuant to his mandate under the Dayton Peace Agreement, has pursued his contacts with all political parties with a view to promoting unity and cooperation among all the communities of that country.

China welcomes the positive role played by the European Union in the framework of the Dayton Peace Agreement and supports the work of the Special Representative and the European Union Force in Bosnia and Herzegovina (EUFOR). We hope that EUFOR will increase its support for the capacity-building of the Bosnia and Herzegovina armed forces so that the country will be able to assume responsibility for maintaining its own State sovereignty, security and stability as soon as possible.

We welcome the help provided by the International Monetary Fund to Bosnia and Herzegovina to help maintain the country's financial and economic stability. China is ready to work together with the international community in continuing to provide Bosnia and Herzegovina with support to ensure lasting peace, stability and development.

Mr. Apakan (Turkey): Let me begin by extending a warm welcome to President Radmanović and thanking him for his statement. I would also like to congratulate him, as well as Mr. Izetbegović and Mr. Komšić, for their elections as members of the Council of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina and for the successful conduct of the elections.

We are also pleased to see High Representative Inzko among us again. I want to thank him for his tireless efforts and leadership and for his comprehensive report (see S/2010/575, annex) and the insightful briefing he provided today.

In a few days, we will celebrate the fifteenth anniversary of the signing of the Dayton of Peace Agreement on Bosnia and Herzegovina. These 15 years have certainly not been easy. But, despite the difficulties, there have been significant positive developments. We can definitely say that Bosnia and Herzegovina has proved itself to be viable as a State. As such, the presence of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the Security Council is a clear sign of the confidence that the international community has in the country.

In the same vein, we are pleased that the elections held on 3 October were successfully carried out and that they were characterized by international observers as being generally in accordance with international standards. We welcome the maturity displayed by all components of the country and we hope that a broad-based Government will be formed soon to tackle the many issues that lie ahead.

As a Balkan country itself, Turkey attaches great importance to achieving lasting peace and stability in the region. We consider a sovereign, democratic, stable and functional State of Bosnia and Herzegovina, with its internationally recognized borders, as an indispensable prerequisite for achieving that objective. That is why, in addition to our excellent bilateral relations, as illustrated by the recent visits of our President and Minister for Foreign Affairs, as underlined once again in the report of the High Representative, Turkey continues to make every effort to assist Bosnia and Herzegovina in its endeavours to promote regional cooperation. Indeed, regional ownership and inclusiveness should be a key element in our quest for peace and stability in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In this context, the Turkish initiative to hold high-level trilateral meetings between Turkey, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia, as well as between Turkey, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia, has surely contributed to the enhancement of regional understanding and collaboration. In that regard, we welcome the recent improvement in relations among the regional partners. The visit of the President of Serbia to Srebrenica, the decision of the Serbian Parliament on Srebrenica, the declaration by Mr. Izetbegović on crimes committed during the war and a similar declaration by President Tadić on Vukovar are positive steps towards regional reconciliation. We encourage these acts and gestures, which will promote regional cooperation and

contribute to improving the daily lives of the peoples of the region.

In the same vein, we welcome the decision of the European Union to liberalize the visa regime applied to the citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina. We believe that this decision is yet another step that serves to keep alive Bosnia and Herzegovina's European perspective. Furthermore, Turkey supports and appreciates the efforts of the European Union to assist Bosnia and Herzegovina to take its rightful place in the European family of nations, including by providing stability through its Police Mission and Operation Althea.

As an active contributor to both of these missions, Turkey supports the extension of the executive mandate of the European Union-led peacekeeping force and remains ready to continue with its contributions. We believe that the future of the region is closely tied to that of Europe as a whole. We firmly support Bosnia and Herzegovina's aspirations to fully integrate into Euro-Atlantic institutions. We hope that those institutions will also embrace Bosnia and Herzegovina. We also hope that the internal difficulties impeding Bosnia and Herzegovina's effective cooperation with NATO will soon be resolved.

Having mentioned the internal difficulties, we cannot help but share the concerns of Mr. Inzko regarding several aspects of the domestic situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, in particular with respect to the continued anti-Dayton rhetoric and actions that challenge the sovereignty and constitutional order of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The lack of progress in the reforms necessary for the integration of the country into Euro-Atlantic institutions is a direct consequence of the divisions and negative stances in the internal political situation. I should say that this trend stands in clear contradiction to the improved regional atmosphere, and is thus all the more unnecessary and counterproductive. Unilateral actions not only complicate the functioning of the State, they also have adverse consequences for those who promote them, as they further delay the closure of the Office of the High Representative.

At this point, let me also underline that we firmly support the High Representative in using the powers granted to him to lead Bosnia and Herzegovina to a better future. As such, the challenges to the authority of the international community and that of the Steering Board of the Peace Implementation Council are unacceptable.

Let me conclude by once saying that the past 15 years have clearly shown that Bosnia and Herzegovina is moving in the right direction. We support Bosnia and Herzegovina. It is up to Bosnians to make their country prosper and to undertake the necessary reforms to bring about a more viable State. As such, we want to see all parties embrace a common vision and act accordingly, rather than pursue narrow ethnic interests. We therefore support the democratic forces in the country and remain hopeful that the democratic ideals and aspirations of the peoples of Bosnia and Herzegovina will eventually overcome the divisive tendencies.

On the other hand, we believe that the integration of Bosnia and Herzegovina into Euro-Atlantic structures will eliminate any feelings of exclusion, instil confidence in the peoples of Bosnia and Herzegovina and ensure its future as a strong, stable, secure and whole European country. Turkey is fully committed to this objective. We will do everything possible to assist the peoples of Bosnia and Herzegovina, without any distinction among them, to achieve their rightful place in the international community.

Mr. Briens (France) (*spoke in French*): I would first like to thank the High Representative for the briefing that he has just given us and to assure him of the support of France. I would also like to welcome Mr. Radmanović, Chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

A few days ago, the 27 Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the European Union decided to lift the short-stay visa obligation for citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina. That is significant progress — first of all, for the citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina, who will now be able to travel more easily within Europe. But this also means progress for political leaders, who can see with this decision of the European Union the specific results of their efforts. This decision also shows to what extent the unity of the leaders of Bosnia and Herzegovina in working towards a shared objective can produce results. The European Union long ago specified the conditions that needed to be met and, indeed, once those conditions were met, the Union honoured its commitments.

However, we regret that progress expected in other areas has not been forthcoming. Thus, absent an agreement between the two entities dealing with the issue of the redistribution of defence property, the first annual programme of the plan of action for accession to NATO could not begin last September. Bosnia and Herzegovina will be given a new opportunity to launch that programme next September.

The High Representative has unfortunately referred to several difficulties and internal conflicts in his last report (See S/2010/575), and we can only subscribe to his analyses.

Gone is the time when the international community took decisions in place of the leaders of countries. Let us recall that, 10 years ago in Zagreb, the European Union sought a European perspective for all countries in the region. These prospects gradually took shape in stages, road maps and criteria. One by one, all countries of the region have seized this opportunity and is preparing, each at its own pace, to one day become a full member of the European family. The Sarajevo summit held in June confirmed the European Union's commitment to that process.

At the same time, the European Union is helping to stabilize Bosnia and Herzegovina with the European Union Force Althea. For 10 years, the international community has supported the Bosnian authorities and helped them to build institutions capable of running the country. Objectives and conditions have been laid out to provide for a transition that will allow the Bosnian authorities to decide their own future by themselves. The international community will remain present in the form of a strengthened Special Representative of the European Union who will replace the High Representative.

However, instead of taking advantage of these opportunities, the leaders of the country, in particular those of the Republika Srpska, as noted by Mr. Inzko in his briefing, have been amplifying their criticism of the international community that has steadfastly supported the country for so many years. With legislative elections approaching, recent months saw an increase in public statements around the country that are unacceptable in a country that is a member of this Council and would like to become a member of the European Union and NATO. We urge leaders to form a Government as soon as possible following the elections of 3 October. The electoral campaign should now come to a close and allow the work suspended for this period to continue.

We welcome actions undertaken recently in the region, such as the adoption by the Serbian Parliament last spring of a resolution condemning the Srebrenica massacre, showing that dialogue and reconciliation have their place in the Balkans and that the regional cooperation so dearly sought by the European Union is not in vain.

Once again, we call on the Bosnian leaders to put into practice these initiatives at the national level and finally to harness a positive momentum that would confirm the European perspective of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The future of the country depends on its leaders, particularly those who have just received mandates from their citizens. Today, it is up to them to demonstrate courage and determination in solving their problems.

Mr. Mayr-Harting (Austria): Let me first warmly welcome High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina, Valentin Inzko, and thank him for the report (see S/2010/575, annex) and his work. We fully share his assessment of recent developments and the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. We would like to reaffirm our full and continued support for him and his office, as well as for his efforts to implement the Dayton Peace Agreement and to engage Bosnia and Herzegovina in its reforms towards joining the European Union.

At the same time, let me warmly welcome Mr. Nebojša Radmanović, the new Chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina. We thank him for his statement and for the special emphasis he has placed on the European aspirations of his country — aspirations that are shared by all the inhabitants of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Let me add on a more personal note that it is has been and is good to sit next to Bosnia and Herzegovina at this table as a neighbour, just as we are neighbours in Europe. Every Austrian knows that if one takes a ruler and places it on the map, the distance between Vienna and Sarajevo is shorter than the distance between Vienna and the western border of Austria.

Against this background, we also congratulate the institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina on the recent fulfilment of the requirements for visa liberalization, which was confirmed by the Council of the European

Union on Monday. Austria very much welcomes this opportunity for the citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina as an important step forward that will bring the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the European Union closer together. More frequent and flexible visits will also lead to the intensification of business contacts. This decision by the Council of the European Union clearly demonstrates that where there is political will, necessary reforms can be implemented effectively. We hope that this spirit of reform will also be taken on by the new Governments of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

At the same time, in line with the assessment of the High Representative and the recent progress report by the European Commission, we regret that Bosnia and Herzegovina has made limited progress in many areas of reform. The Constitution needs to be brought in line with international and European standards, including with rulings of the European Court of Human Rights.

Bosnia and Herzegovina needs to increase the functionality and effectiveness of its State institutions and to continue to cooperate with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, although we have taken note of the overall positive evaluation by Mr. Brammertz in this regard. Failure to implement the conditions on immovable military property has also delayed the implementation of the NATO Membership Action Plan.

As an example of the capability of the institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina, we are encouraged by the professional handling of general elections by the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the assessment that the elections were generally held in line with international standards. At the same time, we hope that the Constitution will be adjusted and that future elections will be open to all citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in line with the European Convention for Human Rights and its Protocol No. 12.

We call on all political parties to end the use of divisive and nationalistic rhetoric. Here, I have to say, we specifically share the concerns expressed by the High Representative. Instead, a functional and effective State-level Government needs to be formed urgently to tackle the many outstanding reform issues. The politicians of Bosnia and Herzegovina will, we hope, work together to make further progress on the country's path towards the European Union and to fulfil the 5+2 criteria set forth by the Steering Board of the Peace Implementation Council for the closure of the Office of the High Representative.

In October, the European Union Foreign Affairs Council again confirmed the readiness of the European Union to continue the European Union Force Althea with an executive military role beyond 2010 under a renewed United Nations mandate, and we look forward to next week's adoption of the resolution extending the authorization. The operation has started to provide non-executive capacity-building and training support, thus contributing to strengthened local ownership and capacity. Austria will continue its commitment as a troop contributor to the operation.

With a mandate extended until the end of 2011, the European Union Police Mission has focused specifically on fighting organized crime and corruption as part of an overall effort to entrench the rule of law in the country. The recent high-level visits by the President of the European Council, Mr. Van Rompuy, and Commissioner Füle underline the unequivocal commitment of the European Union to the European perspective for Bosnia and Herzegovina and the European Union's preparedness to assume the leading role in Bosnia and Herzegovina in the future. Members of the Council know how strongly my own country is committed to these aspirations and goals.

The Treaty of Lisbon has given the European Union more effective policy tools from which Bosnia and Herzegovina will also benefit, for example in the form of a strengthened European Union presence in the country.

Fifteen years after the signature of the Dayton and Paris Peace Agreements, Bosnia and Herzegovina's citizens deserve a qualitative step forward for their country on the path towards European integration. We encourage the political leaders of the country to put Bosnia and Herzegovina firmly on the way towards the European Union and, in doing so, they can count on our support.

Mrs. DiCarlo (United States of America): Let me begin by welcoming His Excellency Mr. Nebojša Radmanović, the Chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and thanking him for his comments. Let me also welcome High Representative Inzko back to the Council and thank him for his comprehensive briefing and service in support of the Dayton Peace Agreement.

Fifteen years ago this month, a Peace Agreement was initialled in Dayton, Ohio, that helped end a terrible war and established a framework for a lasting peace. The United States made a commitment back then to help Bosnia and Herzegovina achieve peace and prosperity. We stand by that commitment today.

We are optimistic that Bosnia and Herzegovina can develop into a strong, stable democracy that respects the interests of all its citizens. The Bosnian people have made enormous strides in the past 15 years. Still, as the High Representative has indicated, much more work needs to be done for the country to fully realize its Euro-Atlantic future.

To move ahead with the closure of the Office of the High Representative, the objectives set by the Peace Implementation Council's Steering Board on State and defence property issues must be met, together with the rest of the 5+2 conditions. The defence property issue also prevents Bosnia and Herzegovina from reaping the benefits of its NATO Membership Action Plan.

Constitutional reforms are also urgently needed to address basic human rights concerns, make Government more responsive to its people, and help meet the requirements for Euro-Atlantic integration. These decisions cannot be imposed from the outside, but the United States will remain engaged and we will help however we can.

Let me make three points in addressing the High Representative's report (see S/2010/575, annex). First, the United States welcomes Bosnia and Herzegovina's recent achievements. International observers consider the 3 October general elections generally free and fair. We look forward to the formation of Governments that can make progress on the pressing reform agenda. We also welcome Bosnia and Herzegovina's progress towards meeting the conditions for European Union (EU) visa liberalization, which will spur economic development and open the door to greater regional integration. The United States further appreciates Bosnia and Herzegovina's assumption of significantly increased responsibilities in the international community, including its service on the Security Council and its important contributions to the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan.

Secondly, we share High Representative Inzko's concerns about what he describes as a deteriorating political climate. Election campaigning is no excuse for provocative and divisive political rhetoric. Leaders need to work together across ethnic and party lines. The United States is concerned about the expressions of public support by some politicians for war criminals indicted or convicted by the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia. We also condemn denials of the Srebrenica genocide, which are simply indefensible. Such attitudes undermine respect for the rule of law, impede reconciliation and hinder inter-ethnic cooperation. We expect Bosnia and Herzegovina to meet all of its obligations towards the Tribunal, and we expect it to take seriously its commitment to implementing its domestic war crimes strategy.

Thirdly, let me affirm United States support for the Office of the High Representative and the use of executive powers when necessary. Numerous Security Council resolutions have affirmed the High Representative's Bonn powers and affirmative responsibility to exercise them to ensure peace, stability and compliance with the Dayton Peace Agreement. All parties are required to respect and implement the High Representative's decisions.

Following the formation of Governments, we expect Bosnia and Herzegovina's leaders to make decisive progress on the outstanding elements of the 5+2 agenda for transition from the Office of the High Representative to an EU Special Representative. We look forward to constitutional and other reforms necessary for the country to present a credible application for EU candidacy.

We also note that the EU's presence — the European Union Force in Bosnia and Herzegovina (EUFOR) — continues to contribute to a safe and secure environment. It should be maintained. We support renewal of the EUFOR mandate, which the Council is currently discussing, and the continuation of a credible EU military presence.

The United States remains fully committed to the framework established by the Dayton Agreement. We look forward to continued reforms as the country's citizens and elected leaders assume full responsibility for their future, eventually leading to Bosnia and Herzegovina's full membership in the European Union and NATO.

Mrs. Viotti (Brazil): I, too, extend a warm welcome to His Excellency Mr. Nebojša Radmanović, Chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and thank him for his important statement. I also thank

High Representative Valentin Inzko for his informative briefing and the report (see S/2010/575, annex) before us.

Brazil commends Bosnia and Herzegovina for having held free, fair and credible general elections last month. The vote should contribute to the consolidation of democracy and help to strengthen key political institutions. Bosnia and Herzegovina is also to be commended for the calm that continues to prevail in the country. Brazil acknowledges the role of the European Union Force in Bosnia and Herzegovina in contributing to a safe and secure environment in the country. We fully support renewal of the Security Council's authorization for the Force.

Also positive is the fact that Bosnia and Herzegovina continues to develop its relations with its neighbours. The completion of conditions for visa liberalization with the European Union is also a positive step on the path towards regional integration.

My delegation reiterates its commitment to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Bosnia and Herzegovina. We support all efforts to strengthen the State at the national level and, at the same time, to preserve the rights and prerogatives of all communal entities. The future of Bosnia and Herzegovina as a stable, prosperous and united country hinges on strict respect for the pertinent international and domestic legal provisions on the division of powers among the different levels of Government.

We are therefore concerned by statements and measures of the entities that question the territorial integrity of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Challenges to the Dayton Peace Agreement and its institutional arrangements, as well as divisive rhetoric, should be avoided. In this regard, we call on all actors to respect the authority of and cooperate with the High Representative. It is collaboration between and among entities and between the entities and the State that will lead to the closure of the Office of the High Representative and the transition to a reinforced European Union presence.

The international community should maintain its active support for Bosnia and Herzegovina in its pursuit for political stability and socio-economic development. There is no future for a divided Bosnia and Herzegovina. We hope that all concerned can come to this conclusion, set aside differences and work together. We are convinced that the Bosnian people, with the support of this Council, can and will succeed in consolidating a fully functional and self-sustaining State.

Mr. Rugunda (Uganda): We welcome the Chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, His Excellency Mr. Radmanović, and thank him for his statement. We thank Mr. Inzko, High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina and European Union Special Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina, for his briefing.

We commend the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina for its important contribution to the stability of the country. We also commend the High Representative for his efforts in facilitating the implementation of the Dayton Agreement. It is important that all leaders in the country continue to commit themselves to dialogue and peaceful coexistence.

We are concerned by actions questioning the sovereignty of Bosnia and Herzegovina's State institutions, as well as the continued challenges to the authority of the High Representative and the Steering Board of the Peace Implementation Council. It is important that all parties, including neighbours of Bosnia and Herzegovina, uphold their commitments in the spirit of good-neighbourliness and peaceful coexistence, as enshrined in the United Nations Charter. We call on the authorities of the Republika Srpska to refrain from rhetoric and actions that challenge the sovereignty and constitutional order of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The European Union military mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina has continued to play an important role in providing the reassurance needed by the citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina. We salute the European Union Force in Bosnia and Herzegovina, in cooperation with the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina, for contributing a safe and secure environment. It is important, however, that every effort be made to support the national security forces so that they can assume their full responsibilities.

We welcome the progress that has been achieved in the country in the area of the entrenchment of the rule of law, particularly in terms of police reform and coordinating the policing aspects of combating major and organized crime.

We are concerned that the situation of refugees and displaced persons remains unresolved. This is a potentially destabilizing matter if not addressed in a holistic way. We therefore call on the authorities to ensure the implementation of the aspects of the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina in dealing with refugees.

We commend Bosnia and Herzegovina for the progress made in economic development, despite the challenges brought about by the global financial and economic crisis. We call upon the international partners to support the country in its efforts to address these challenges.

Finally, we once again commend the High Representative and his staff for their good work.

Mr. Sumi (Japan): At the outset, I would like to extend a warm welcome to the Chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, His Excellency Mr. Nebojša Radmanović. I would also like to thank High Representative Valentin Inzko for his comprehensive briefing. I commend the devoted efforts that he and his staff have exerted with sincerity and great dedication to address the very complex and sensitive issues on the ground in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

I welcome the fact that the general elections held in early October were conducted peacefully and successfully overall. In the light of the large number of issues that the country must address, we look forward to the expeditious establishment of the Council of Ministers and the early stabilization of the political situation. In the post-election context, there are at least two aspects that we find to be positive. The first is that the Bosniaks are motivated to reconcile with Serbia, as demonstrated by the apologies expressed by Mr. Izetbegović, a Bosniak member of the Presidency. This development is quite significant for the peace and stability of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the entire West Balkan region.

The second point is that there is strong momentum for cooperation among the members of the Presidency. Their constructive collaboration will show other institutions in the country that the accumulation of cooperation can actually produce improvements in the country as a whole. We cannot be overly optimistic, however, as there remain large gaps among the positions of the various parties and ethnic groups.

We are particularly concerned about some acts that have the potential to destabilize the political situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as indicated in the report of the High Representative (see S/2010/575, annex). The State property law adopted by the Republika Srpska is a flagrant challenge to the authority of the Office of the High Representative. We note with regret that this law makes the possible achievement of the 5+2 agenda difficult.

Japan has consistently supported the policy of Bosnia and Herzegovina regarding Euro-Atlantic integration. In that connection, we welcome the decision by the European Union (EU) Justice and Home Affairs Council to grant the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina a visa exemption to European Union countries. This could increase the incentive and momentum among the Bosnian people towards realizing European integration. We also hope that the achievement of the 5+2 objectives will enable the transition from the Office of the High Representative to the EU Special Representative at the earliest possible date.

The situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina will continue to require an active role on the part of the High Representative until the transition to the EU Special Representative takes place. Japan highly values the activities of Mr. Inzko in bringing calm and reassurance to the situation, and continues to support him fully. We would like once again to reiterate that the High Representative must maintain full authority to fulfil his mission until his mandate comes to an end.

Finally, I would like to express Japan's appreciation for the role that the European Union Force in Bosnia and Herzegovina is playing in that region, and we support the renewal of its mandate now under discussion in the Security Council.

Mr. Issoze-Ngondet (Gabon) (*spoke in French*): At the outset, I would like to welcome the presence of His Excellency Mr. Nebojša Radmanović, Chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and to thank him for his important statement. I also thank Mr. Valentin Inzko, High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina, for introducing his report (see S/2010/575, annex). We share his views and support his efforts for a strong and stable Bosnia and Herzegovina, at home in Europe and in the world at large.

The periodic review by the Security Council of the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina is a crucial opportunity to take stock of developments in the political and security situation in the country and the region. The report that has been presented to us highlights several areas of progress, which Gabon welcomes.

First of all, on the political front, general elections were held on 3 October. The successful holding of the elections attests to the political maturity of all parties involved and to their willingness to build the country on a foundation of peace. The elections should encourage all parties to move forward by rejecting the ethnic rhetoric that has long undermined the country's political and social life. I urge the Bosnians to continue to base the country's progress towards increased peace and stability on the virtues of dialogue and tolerance.

The talks under way aimed at creating a Government based on a broad consensus represents, in my view, another major step forward in the process of establishing the institutional mechanisms that are crucial to political stability, economic and social development and the strengthening of the country.

We also welcome the decision taken by the European Union on 8 November to lift the visa requirement for Albanians and Bosnians in the Schengen area countries. This is a strong political signal that demonstrates European Union commitment to the peace process in Bosnia and Herzegovina and to that country's progressive integration into the European community.

These positive developments lead me to once again urge the various political stakeholders to accelerate their implementation of the Dayton Peace Agreement. Gabon believes that it would be to their benefit to strengthen their cooperation with the High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina, the European Union Force in Bosnia and Herzegovina (EUFOR), NATO and the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia. We must also continue to support the parties in their efforts to achieve the five objectives and two conditions set out by the Steering Board of the Peace Implementation Council, which are essential to the effective transition from the Office of the High Representative to that of the European Union Special Representative.

On the security front, Gabon welcomes the fully stable security conditions throughout the country. In that regard, my delegation commends the central role of EUFOR to that end, in cooperation with the Armed Forces of Bosnian and Herzegovina. I am of the view that reform of the defence sector, which NATO fully supports, will help strengthen security in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

For Gabon, the presence of Bosnia and Herzegovina in this body is proof of the consideration and respect it enjoys in the international community, but also and above all, of its commitment to finding peace and prosperity once again within and with Europe. My country remains hopeful that the peace process under way will be further strengthened by the momentum towards unity, of which the ongoing consultation and dialogue will be the main vectors. Those two tools will open the path to a peaceful and bright future for that country, which has long suffered internal tensions.

Mr. Onemola (Nigeria): I, too, would like to welcome His Excellency Mr. Nebojša Radmanović, Chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, to the Council and to thank him for his statement. I also thank the High Representative, Mr. Valentin Inzko, for his views on the developments in Bosnia and Herzegovina since his last report (see S/2010/235, annex).

We are pleased with the positive developments in Bosnia and Herzegovina since the Council's last meeting on this item (see S/PV.6319). In particular, we note the successful conclusion of the sixth national election last month. We congratulate the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina on their commitment to democracy, as demonstrated by their participation in the elections. We welcome the decision to allow visa-free travel to all Bosnians. Equally, we welcome the European Union's improved relations with the country's neighbours.

We recall with nostalgia the high hopes that attended the signing of the Dayton Peace Agreement 15 years ago. As we welcome the achievements of the past 11 years, we also share the Secretary-General's concern over the limited progress made in implementing the Dayton Peace Agreement and in meeting the outstanding requirements set by the Steering Board of the Peace Implementation Council

for the transition from the Office of the High Representative to a European Union presence.

In the same vein, we observe that the reported increase in provocative and nationalistic rhetoric further undermines efforts towards achieving a stable and peaceful country, fully integrated into Euro-Atlantic structures. We encourage political leaders to commit to the necessary reforms and to ensure the completion of the five objectives and two conditions for the closure of the Office of the High Representative. They should also refrain from nationalistic and anti-Dayton rhetoric, surmount their differences and commit to dialogue.

We welcome the contributions of the regional and international partners in support of Bosnia and Herzegovina's progress towards Euro-Atlantic integration. We encourage it not to relent in its efforts to ensure that all outstanding issues pertaining to the country's integration into the European Union are resolved speedily. We appreciate the role of the European Union's peacekeeping, in collaboration with the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina, to ensure a safe and secure environment in the country.

We commend the High Representative for his tireless efforts to promote the entry of Bosnia and Herzegovina into the European Union and to facilitate the implementation of the Dayton Agreement. We look forward to a more collaborative effort between the Office of the High Representative, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the Government in ensuring the full implementation of annex 7 of the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina in order to close the chapter of displacement in Bosnia and Herzegovina by 2014.

It is a positive development that the economy of Bosnia and Herzegovina is showing signs of improvement. Economic growth in the country is essential to supporting efforts to sustain peace and stability. The Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina will need to continue the necessary reforms and to work assiduously with its international partners to improve the economy. We call on the international community to continue to support the Government in its efforts to foster economic progress, thereby improving the lives of the average Bosnian.

Let me conclude by stating that Nigeria, along with Council members, will remain focused in efforts to support the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina to achieve a prosperous and democratic country. We urge all concerned to display more maturity, as we believe that the Bosnian people can confront the current challenges with the necessary political will.

The President: I shall now make a statement in my national capacity.

I thank the High Representative for his very clear report (see S/2010/575, annex) and express the United Kingdom's strong support for his ongoing work in Bosnia and Herzegovina. I also thank His Excellency Mr. Radmanović for attending this meeting so soon after his swearing-in for a second term on the Presidency, and congratulate him on his re-election.

The United Kingdom shares Mr. Inzko's concerns about the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Over the past six months, there has been a worrying lack of progress on key reforms and an escalation of divisive anti-Dayton rhetoric and actions against Bosnia and Herzegovina's State-level institutions. In that context, it is important to obtain the means to deal with the challenges to Dayton.

We want to see transition from the Office of the High Representative to the European Union Special Representative, but only on the basis of the full completion of the 5+2 conditionality. The level of rhetoric highlighted in the report is of particular concern. It is important that the Security Council make very clear its unequivocal commitment to Bosnia and Herzegovina's territorial integrity, as enshrined in the Dayton Agreement.

We fully agree with the High Representative's call for the continuing mandate of the European Union Force in Bosnia and Herzegovina (EUFOR). In the context of the continued political tensions, EUFOR fulfils an essential role underpinning stability in Bosnia and Herzegovina. We welcome the fact that the October elections were conducted, as the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights has said, generally in line with international standards. The newly elected leaders now need quickly to form new Governments at the federal and State levels, with the reform agenda at the heart of their programmes.

I now resume my functions as President of the Council.

I give the floor to the representative of Croatia.

Mr. Vilović (Croatia): At the outset, allow me to extend my welcome to His Excellency Mr. Nebojša Radmanović, Chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina. We are also pleased to see again among us His Excellency Mr. Valentin Inzko, High Representative and Special Representative of the European Union, and thank him for his briefing. The report (see S/2010/575, annex) that he presented accurately reflects recent developments in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and we share the concerns that he expressed in his report and his briefing. I would like to take this opportunity to reaffirm Croatia's full and continued support for him and his Office.

Bearing in mind the existing shortcomings in addressing the remaining objectives and conditions, as well as the continuing challenges to the very foundations of Bosnia and Herzegovina, as established by the Dayton Peace Agreement — the fifteenth anniversary of which we will mark shortly — we agree with the assessment that it would be premature to begin the closure of the Office of the High Representative this year.

I would like to make three brief points.

First, we welcome the fact that the October elections were free, fair and generally organized in accordance with democratic principles and international standards. Croatia believes that elected individuals and political parties should enter into constructive dialogue on the formation of new Governments at all levels so as to continue, as soon as possible, with the process of reforms needed for Euro-Atlantic integration.

Negotiations on constitutional reform should be continued in the post-electoral period. Croatia reiterates its call to political leaders in Bosnia and Herzegovina to find strength and reach compromise on key issues. Assisting Bosnia and Herzegovina in reaching sustainable stability and functionality is one of our regional priorities. However, there will be no progress without consensus, which has to originate from within and enjoy the support of regional actors and the international community.

For Croatia, the territorial integrity, sovereignty and equality of Bosnia and Herzegovina's three constitutive peoples are the basic preconditions for the country's stability and sustainability. Croatia therefore advocates for constitutional amendments that provide full equality for all constitutive peoples and citizens throughout the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Secondly, Croatia's strategic interest is the stability, security and progress of South-East Europe. We are pleased that the report recognized the improved political environment in relations between countries in the region. I would like to reiterate that Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina enjoy a close and friendly relationship in many aspects. The high-level visits of both President Josipović and Prime Minister Kosor represent strong encouragement to Bosnia and Herzegovina and to Croats in Bosnia and Herzegovina, including as regards their viable return to their country, primarily to Republika Srpska.

In the same vein, Croatia strongly supports the clear and unambiguous European and Euro-Atlantic perspective of Bosnia and Herzegovina. We firmly support all the countries of the region in their reforms. We have invested a lot of effort in offering them our assistance and experience on the European Union and NATO integration path. We believe that membership in the European Union represents the most suitable framework for the overall development of all countries of South-East Europe.

Therefore, we are particularly pleased with the recent decision of the Council of the European Union on the abolition of the visa requirement for citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina holding biometric passports. This is a welcome step that not only brings real benefits to the people, but may also reverse the trend of Bosnia and Herzegovina lagging behind other countries in the region in its rapprochement to the European Union.

On the other hand, we regret that the invitation extended by NATO to Bosnia and Herzegovina to join its membership action plan, a step that Croatia strongly and actively supported, has not been followed by the start of its annual national programme. We call on the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina to take all the necessary measures in order to fulfil requirements regarding State property.

Thirdly, as we have stated on many occasions, there cannot be a Bosnia and Herzegovina without Croats in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Their political and cultural survival is vital for the continued existence of Bosnia and Herzegovina, as these two elements are closely intertwined. Croats in Bosnia and Herzegovina are the smallest and most vulnerable group. Their voice

should be considered on the basis of equality, both ethnic and civic, as guaranteed in the Constitution and as stemming from the history of the country. Croats should have the equal right to participate in the decision-making process and should not be out-voted, especially at the level of the Federation.

Finally, the fight against impunity for war crimes is crucial for the normalization of the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The mandate of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia should not be declared complete without bringing to justice the two remaining fugitives, Ratko Mladić and Goran Hadžić, who were indicted for the most atrocious crimes committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in Croatia. It is also important that national courts fulfil their lasting responsibility and address their war crime cases.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Serbia.

Mr. Starčević (Serbia): Let me, first of all, warmly welcome His Excellency Mr. Nebojša Radmanović, Chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and His Excellency Mr. Valentin Inzko, High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina.

As on all previous occasions, the delegation of Serbia has read the report on implementation of the Peace Agreement (see S/2010/575) that has been presented. We have also listened with keen interest to the views expressed in the Council today. Serbia is fully committed to continuing, in cooperation with Bosnia and Herzegovina and other regional stakeholders, activities aimed at bringing about full reconciliation and lasting stability in the region. We are convinced that the joint efforts and cooperation of all the countries in the region, along with the intensification of the efforts of the international community, will contribute to the strengthening of Bosnia and Herzegovina as one country.

Serbia is making great efforts to significantly advance its relations with Bosnia and Herzegovina, our next-door neighbour and a friendly country. It is precisely the continued development and promotion of relations among States of the Western Balkans that will bring us to the achievement of our common goal, namely, integration into the European Union (EU).

We welcome democratic processes. In that spirit, we also welcome the recently held elections, which expressed the will of the people. We see them as an important step forward in ensuring a peaceful and prosperous future for all the citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina and in creating conditions for further advancement towards the European Union.

In order to bring greater stability to the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the country needs some encouragement from the Union, as EU integration is a common denominator of the aspirations of the peoples of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Encouragement and concrete support for Bosnia and Herzegovina's integration into the European Union would go a long way in bringing about further stability to the country. Serbia has been a staunch advocate of Bosnia and Herzegovina's inclusion into the EU's liberalization of the visa regime. We are very happy that this decision has finally been adopted. That is exactly the much-needed and strategically important signal of a European future for Bosnia and Herzegovina.

As a signatory party and a guarantor of the implementation of the Peace Agreement for Bosnia and Herzegovina, and in accordance with resolution 1031 (1995), Serbia remains strongly committed to the integrity of Bosnia and Herzegovina and consistently respects its territorial integrity and sovereignty. We support the initiation of reform processes in Bosnia and Herzegovina. We are of the opinion that the closure of the Office of the High Representative and the termination of the so-called Bonn powers would contribute to finding a solution in that regard.

We call for the achievement of a sustainable solution in the spirit of European values, with the agreement of the representatives of the two entities and the consensus of the three constituent peoples. Serbia is encouraging the participants in that process to do all that is needed to bring about such an agreement.

Our constructive approach to the search for a solution is based not only on our support for the integrity of Bosnia and Herzegovina, but also on our deep conviction that only dialogue and agreement can bring about a solution that can be sustained in the future. Every solution in Bosnia and Herzegovina should be followed by peace and stability and should be reached by agreements that do not bring into question the integrity of the country, for it is only a

stable and prosperous region that can become a part of the European family of nations.

Based on the Special Parallel Relationship Agreement between the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and Republika Srpska, Serbia views the development of its relations with the Republika Srpska in the context of its efforts to intensify overall relations with Bosnia and Herzegovina. Guided by its commitment to a complete normalization and substantively new relations, my country is devoted to the further improvement of relations and has taken important steps towards comprehensive regional reconciliation. The declaration on Srebrenica of the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia demonstrates clearly Serbia's support for Bosnia and Herzegovina, but also its readiness to confront the past and assume political responsibility for the future and the well-being of the region. The Istanbul declaration and the regular trilateral meetings of the Foreign Ministers of Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Turkey contribute and lend impetus to the further promotion of good-neighbourly relations.

We are fully aware that regional and economic cooperation provide a special impulse to the lasting stabilization of the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the region of South-East Europe/Western Balkans. The successful cooperation between Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina within the framework of numerous international and regional initiatives — such as the Process of Cooperation in South-East Europe, the Central European Free Trade Agreement, the Regional Cooperation Council, the Central European Initiative, the Adriatic-Ionian Initiative and others — is a good example of the importance that we attach to the promotion of regional cooperation and a common European future. We are committed to furthering ever better and more extensive regional cooperation and integration so that we can find common answers to regional challenges and cooperate in our efforts to join the European Union.

The President: There are no further speakers inscribed on my list. I thank Mr. Radmanović and Mr. Inzko for their participation in today's meeting.

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 4.50 p.m.